

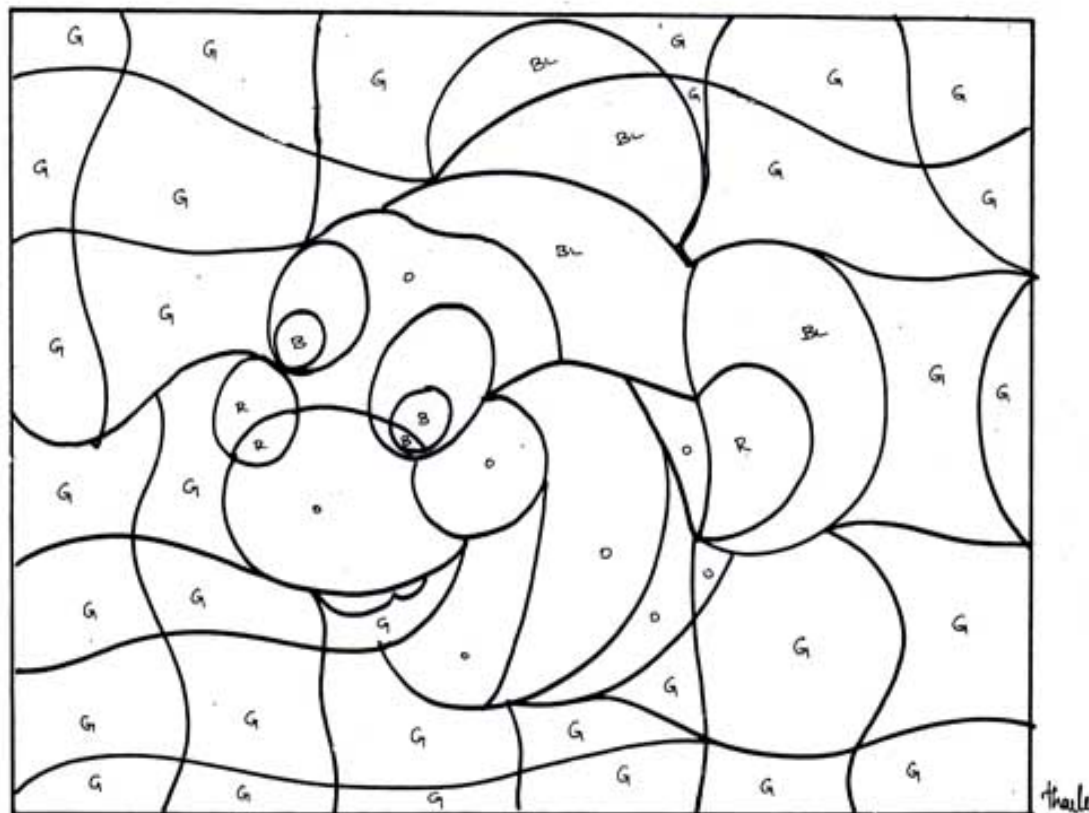
GOKULAM

The monthly magazine for children



MAY 2002
Rs.6/-

A NOBLE PASTIME



COLOUR TO CODE

R-Red, O-Orange,
BL-Blue, B-Black, G-Green.



Answer: 28

**HOW MANY
BUBBLES?**

WHICH IS THE UNLUCKY ONE?



Answer: C



HOLIDAY SPECIAL

MAY 2002



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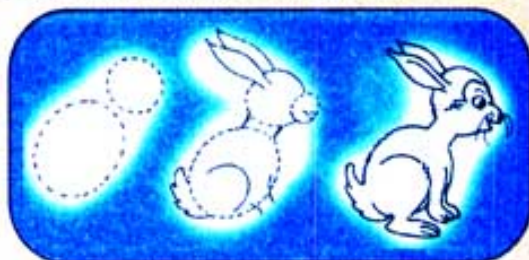


GOKULAM

Vol. XIV, No.11

Of all created things the loveliest,
And most divine are children. — William Canton

E-mail : kalkiweekly@vsnl.com



Here are excerpts from a book by an all-time favourite children's author. It's all about how these children plan their holiday. Read on and get into the mood.

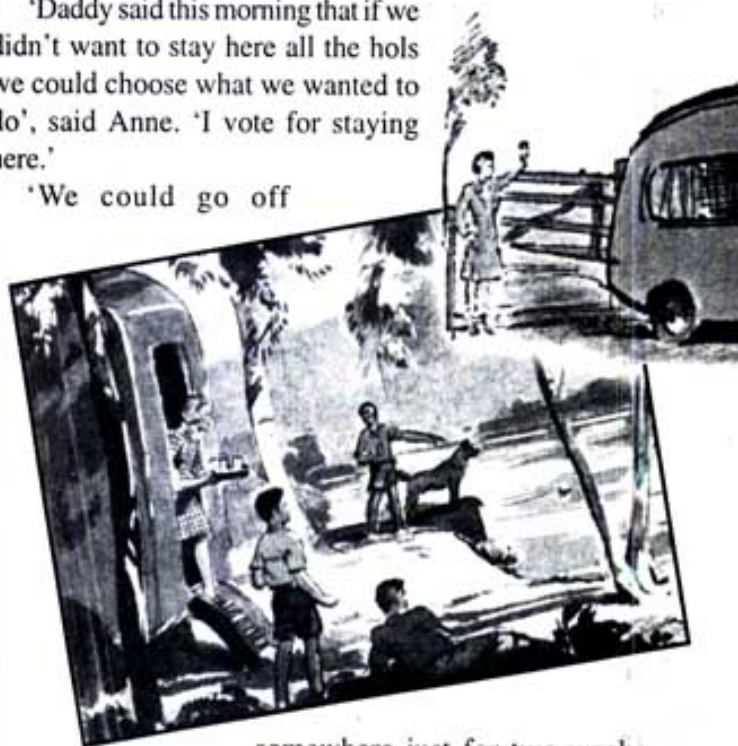
'I do love the beginning of the summer hols,' said Julian. 'They always seem to stretch out ahead for ages and ages.'

'They go so nice and slowly at first,' said Anne, his little sister. 'Then they start to gallop.'

The others laughed. They knew exactly what Anne meant.

'Daddy said this morning that if we didn't want to stay here all the hols we could choose what we wanted to do', said Anne. 'I vote for staying here.'

'We could go off



somewhere just for two weeks, perhaps', said Dick. 'For a change.'

'You know, I think if we were allowed to go off by ourselves somewhere, it would be rather fun,' said George, biting a blade of grass.

'It would be jolly good fun to go off on horses,' said George.

'What about a walking tour?' said Julian after a pause. There was a chorus of groans.

'What! In this weather! You're mad!'

?!

Imperial Palace
in the capital city
of China is the
largest palace in the
world. It is
720,000sq metre in
size and is sur-
rounded by walls of
10m height and a
moat 52m wide. It
has 99,995 rooms!

- S. Aarti, Std VI,
Bharatiya Vidya
Bhavan,
Trivandrum.



'I'd like to go somewhere where we could bathe,' said Anne. 'In a lake, for instance, if we can't go to the sea.'

'Sounds nice,' said Dick. 'My goodness, I'm sleepy, Let's hurry up and settle this matter, or I shall be snoring hard.'

* * *

'I know what we'll do these hols! We'll hire a caravan and go off in it by ourselves. Do let's! Oh, do let's!'

The others stared at George's excited face. She had gone quite red. Dick thumped on the ground.

'A jolly good idea! Why didn't we think of it before?'

* * *



Getting into the mood...

In the morning good news awaited the four children.

'Yes, we've talked it over,' she said. 'And Daddy says he doesn't see why you shouldn't have a caravan holiday. He thinks it would be good for you to go off and rough it a bit.'

* * *

'You will be in complete charge, you understand, Julian,' said the boy's father. 'You are old enough now to be really responsible. The others must realise that you are in charge and they must do as you say.'

'Yes,' said Julian, feeling proud. 'I'll

see to things all right.'

* * *

It was fun taking things down to the caravans and packing them all in. There were shelves for a few books and games, so Julian brought down snap cards, ludo, lexicon, happy families and dominoes, as well as four or five books for each of them. He also brought down some maps of the district, because he meant to plan out where they were to go, and the best roads to follow.

'Remember to boil every drop of water you drink,' said the children's mother. 'That's very important. Get as much milk from the farms as they will let you have. And remember that there is plenty of ginger-beer in the locker under the second caravan.'

* * *

'We're ready! Surely we're ready!'

'Yes. Do let's go! Julian! He's gone indoors, the idiot, just when we want to start.'

'He's gone to get the cakes that cook has baked this morning for us. We've heaps of food in the larder. I feel hungry already.'

'Here's Julian. Do come on, Julian. We'll drive off without you. Good-bye, Mother! We'll send you a card every single day, we faithfully promise.'

Julian got up on the front of the green caravan. He clicked to Dobby. 'Get on, Dobby! We're off! Good-bye, Mother!'

* * *

You've guessed it right. The above lines are from Enid Blyton's Five go off in a caravan. Ofcourse holidaying in India is quite different isn't it?



BASIC RULES



Fold in the reverse direction of the dotted line. This is known as the 'mountain' fold.



Fold along the dotted line in the direction of the arrow. This is called the 'valley' fold.

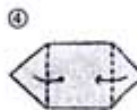
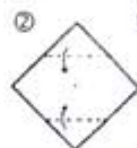
Cut

TABLE

Find the center after folding along the lines.

The step ③ is same as that of "Table"

CHAIR



Make its legs stand by pulling.



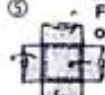
Turn it over
after folding.



Turn it over again after folding.



Turn it over
after folding.

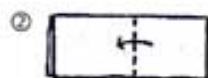
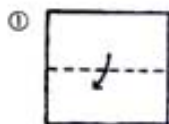


Fold the one corner upward
and other corners downward



Finished

BUTTERFLY



Fold up
only the
top side of
the sheets.



Turn it over, and make the upside down by turning around.



Pinch the tip slightly with the fingers.



Turn it
over



Finished

?!
Hungary a small country in Central Europe is almost entirely a plain and surrounded on all sides by mountains!

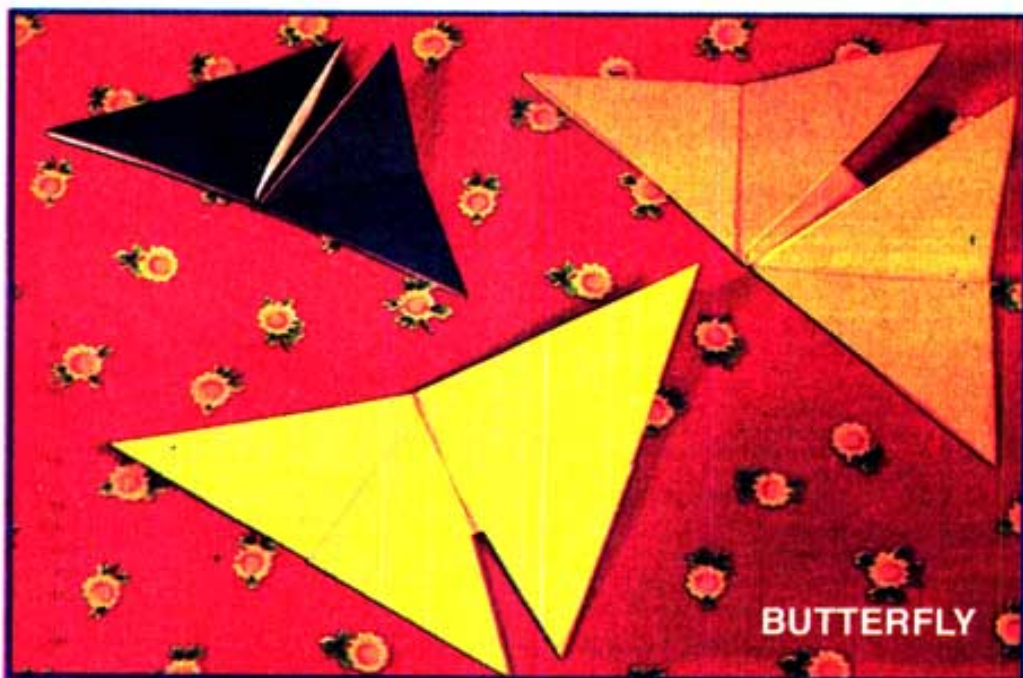


TABLE AND CHAIR

ARTISTIC PLAY

Origami is an art - an art of paper folding, an art of expressing an object. It has been a fascinating play among the children of Japan and has gained popularity world over as a skill and as a pastime. It enriches your imagination and enhances the geometrical way of thinking. It is as precise as any other form of art.

Here are two basic patterns which you can try. Today several books are available for you to use as a guide to origami.



BUTTERFLY

?!

In Tanzania there is an island called the Mafia Island, just off the coast of Dar. It is a very costly tourist spot that suits 'up market' nature enthusiasts, walkers and divers. Mafia Island is accessible mainly by air! - RS



GOKULAM

THE KING'S NECKLACE



Dharmaputra was the king of Kaveripura. He was a kind and just ruler. One fine day when Dharmaputra returned to his palace after a day long hunt, he realised that one of his most valuable necklaces was missing. The king was very worried and sad.

Dharmaputra asked his minister to announce a hefty reward to the person who found the necklace. The minister was surprised at the quantum of the reward.

"Your Majesty," enquired the minister. "When you are rewarding the person with cash that is almost equal to the value of the necklace, what is the use of searching for it? Its either the necklace or the equal amount of money that you will have to part with. Is it not so?"

The king looked up and smiled at his minister. "There is most certainly a difference. If I do not announce the reward, nobody will take the effort to search for the necklace. My most precious necklace will simply vanish somewhere. But if the reward is announced and if the necklace was found by someone, then it will certainly come back to me because the person will be immensely satisfied with the amount given as the reward. He and his family will become prosperous. This way both of us are sure to be happy."

The minister nodded his head in agreement and appreciated the king's reasoning.

- K.S. Sanjaya
Std V, VMES, Bangalore.

A RETOLD STORY

The best place to spend the hot Indian summer is in a tub of water! Add some splashy fun to it, a bit of exercise to work out the muscles and a dash of freaking out with friends- all in a huge tub of water- do you get the picture of a swimming pool?

Swimming as a hobby is an excellent relaxation, while at the same time exercises the body and mind. To top it all, it is absolute fun. Nowadays many apartments come with a small swimming pool meant for children and for those who do not have such a facility there are pools at several hotels and Gyms.

While it is better if an older member of the family teaches the young ones how to swim, this does not always work out because most common swimming pools have professional coaches for

IN A HUGE

this purpose. Nevertheless it is better for a parent to oversee the coaching class, at least up to the time when the child learns the basic lessons.

Basic lessons in swimming can be learnt from an experienced coach in about a month's time and the fee is usually around Rs.500/- to Rs.1000/- Before enrolling in a swimming class it is better to enquire about the general maintenance of the pool.

People say jocularly that there are different strokes for different folks. Learning the art of swimming is a life long experience. Whether it is free style, butterfly, backstroke or dolphin there are certain basic factors for each, within which there is an endless scope for variations. Within each factor, it is the swimmer's personalized experience to find that "best" technique or stroke suited for you. Unless the comfortable technique and position are mastered, swimming can be less fun because it would cause unnecessary pain in the neck and shoulder region



TUB OF WATER!

or aggravate old injuries.

Swimming in different kinds of water also requires different skills. Having been in a swimming pool for a month, one should never attempt to get into the sea for a swim. In any case it is better for children not to get into unknown waters, like lakes or rivers that we come across during a vacation. One never knows the depth of water there or the existence of under currents! -R.S.

A REPORT

scream; you scream; we all scream for

But, the children did not have to scream that day. A large slice of Casata was served with a great deal of hospitality to all of them. Ofcourse, we adults were fortunate too!

A little over an hour's drive and we reached the Hatsun Foods factory that makes Arun Ice Creams. We were taken on a tour inside to see how ice creams were made. Before entering the factory, we were asked to wash our hands and feet. We were given special caps and foot wear to put on. To tell you honestly, it was the most exciting, thrilling, mind boggling and educative tour!

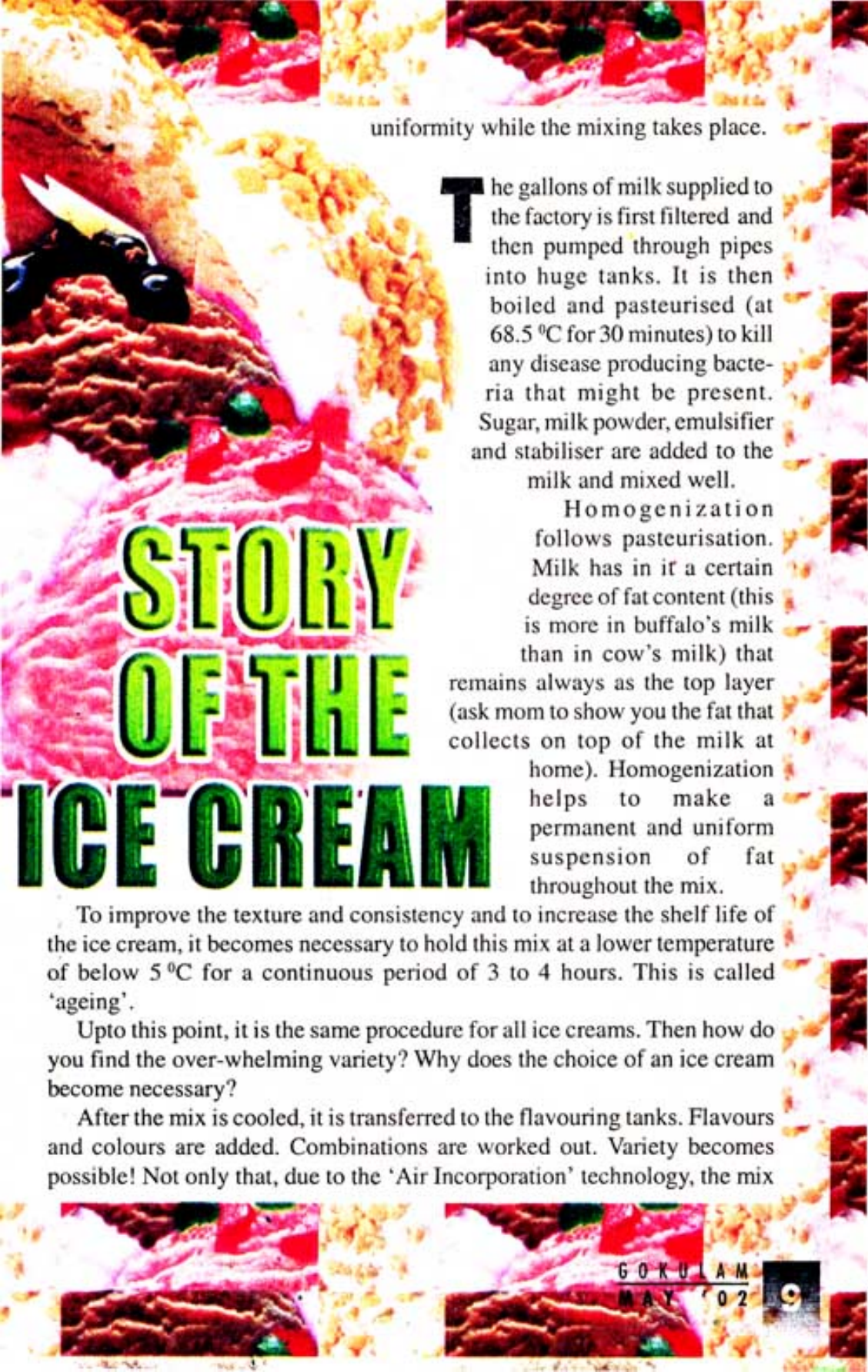


Over 300 varieties of raw material ranging from milk, milk products and sugar to nuts like cashew, badam and pista and from food colouring and essences to stabilizing and emulsifying agents (preservatives) are required to make this yummy treat! These raw materials are kept in store. As and when new stocks arrive, they are tested for quality. The success of the story actually begins with the selection of the ingredients.

How, in what proportion or combination, in what flavours are these raw materials used is what mixing is all about. It is important to maintain a



• Making a choice



uniformity while the mixing takes place.

The gallons of milk supplied to the factory is first filtered and then pumped through pipes into huge tanks. It is then boiled and pasteurised (at 68.5°C for 30 minutes) to kill any disease producing bacteria that might be present. Sugar, milk powder, emulsifier and stabiliser are added to the milk and mixed well.

Homogenization follows pasteurisation. Milk has in it a certain degree of fat content (this is more in buffalo's milk than in cow's milk) that remains always as the top layer (ask mom to show you the fat that collects on top of the milk at home). Homogenization helps to make a permanent and uniform suspension of fat throughout the mix.

STORY OF THE ICE CREAM

To improve the texture and consistency and to increase the shelf life of the ice cream, it becomes necessary to hold this mix at a lower temperature of below 5°C for a continuous period of 3 to 4 hours. This is called 'ageing'.

Upto this point, it is the same procedure for all ice creams. Then how do you find the over-whelming variety? Why does the choice of an ice cream become necessary?

After the mix is cooled, it is transferred to the flavouring tanks. Flavours and colours are added. Combinations are worked out. Variety becomes possible! Not only that, due to the 'Air Incorporation' technology, the mix

?!

Thailand is the only country in South East Asia that did not come under Western rule!



becomes fluffy and increases many-fold in terms of its original quantity.

Now the 'real' ice cream is made. The mix is frozen in the continuous ice cream freezer. Even while passing through the freezer, the mix gets frozen and comes out through different pipes.

It's time to pack the ice cream in different containers - cups of various shapes, cones of different sizes and cartons of different capacity. There are different machines for the different kinds of fills. It is here that we see groups of people standing around the different machines. They wear gloves, caps, aprons, face masks and special foot wear and work like clock work! They don't even speak for fear of spread of infection! They are all smiles, though!

How much of what flavour is packed and in what container is a decision that is made everyday depending on the orders that are waiting. The minimum production is 4800 litres per day!

A certain quantity of Arabian Delight is packed within a certain time. After that, the machine is set for American Delight. But watch it! Before the switch is made, the ingredients are once again checked for quality and the containers are cleansed, washed and air dried.

For ice cream sticks like the chocobar, there are special moulds. The milk mix is poured into these moulds and kept closed with lids that have the sticks fixed to them. The sticks find their way into the mix! The mix solidifies on freezing and sticks to the stick! The frozen milky bars are then dipped into luke warm chocolate syrup and immediately stored in cold storage for hardening.

The Casata was a greater wonder! Here, the mould is a large bowl. The bowl is filled with the layers of different flavours of ice cream that go into the Casata. It is then stored in the freezer for a whole day! The hardening takes place. The next day, the bowl is

allowed to float for just a minute in water. With a gentle scoop of the sides, the ice cream is overturned on a slice of bread cake. The top of the ice cream is decorated and studded with nuts before being packed.

The most 'chilling' experience for us was the entry into the cold storage rooms. With a total capacity of 80,000 litres, these rooms are nothing but giant -sized refrigerators set at an icy temperature of -20 °C. The men who work here wear sweaters, woollen gloves, socks and monkey caps! You bet, we couldn't stay inside for longer than a minute!

It is absolutely essential to store the hardened and packed ice creams in the cold storage for a minimum period of two days! This ensures the longevity of the product. Before storing, the packs are bar coded. The date of manufacture, the batch number etc. are entered. This helps to trace back to a particular batch packed on a particular day in case of any customer complaint!

To fulfill an emergency order, the packs are kept in special cold storage at -40 °C to facilitate immediate hardening.

Yet another interesting fact is that these rooms are defrosted three times a day - just like mom defrosts her fridge at home!

The despatch to the 1000 or odd outlets spread all over South India, also happens only in air-conditioned vans!

The moment the consignment reaches its destination, the packs are once again kept in mini-cold storages. Distribution to the retail shops follows based on the orders received. That's where we buy ice creams from!

What impressed most was the cleanliness and quality check that is maintained through the various stages of production. No compromise whatsoever on the



quality! At any stage, the entire lot of milk can be poured out, the mix discarded or even the nuts and packing material that are bought from outside returned.

Who says now that ice creams are unhealthy? On the contrary, ice creams have healthy ingredients in them and when made under perfectly hygienic conditions, are yummy and absolutely safe! Infact, it is one of the very few 'healthy' dishes that children love. What more do you want? Indulge then this summer - but make sure its the good, well known, well packed brand bought at a decent outlet!

**- LAKSHMI NATARAJAN
PHOTOS - SRIHARI**

TRY THIS OUT!

KITCHEN SCIENCE WITH EVERYDAY MATERIAL!

SPEAR A POTATO!

YOU WILL NEED

raw baking potato,
drinking straw.



What to do: Soak the potato in water for about thirty minutes before trying this experiment. Then with one strong push, thrust the straw straight down into the potato.

What happens: The straw pierces the potato without buckling or bending.

Why: Inertia is the tendency of objects to continue whatever they are doing. An object at rest (potato) tends to remain at rest while an object (straw) that is moving tends to keep moving in the same direction.

Straws that grow in fields have been driven into and through planks of wood when propelled by tornado force winds!



EGG IN A BOTTLE!

YOU WILL NEED

boiling water, small-necked bottle, pot holder, hard-boiled egg, peeled.

What to do: Pour boiling water into a bottle with not too small a mouth but not large enough for the egg to fall in. Hold the bottle with a

?!

The delta formed by the Ganga is the largest in the world!

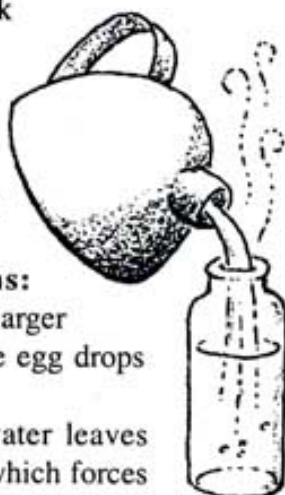


pair of gloves or a thick towel and shake the water around in it and then pour it out. Quickly place the egg over the mouth of the bottle.

What happens:

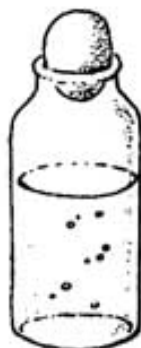
Although the egg is larger than the opening, the egg drops into the bottle.

Why: The hot water leaves steam in the bottle, which forces out some of the air. As the steam in the bottle cools, it changes into droplets of water and requires less space. This reduces the amount of air



pressure in the bottle, and so the pressure of the outside air pushes the egg into the bottle.

To remove the egg, hold the bottle upside down, place your mouth on the opening of the bottle, and blow into it for 30 seconds. The pressure inside will be greater than the pressure outside – and the egg will be forced out.



THE SPOON THAT THINKS IT IS A BELL!

YOU WILL NEED

scissors, 4 foot (12m) length of string, teaspoon.

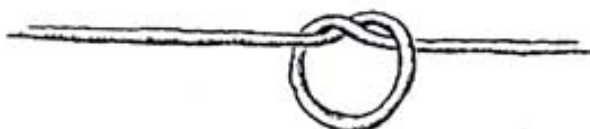
What to do: Tie a sliding loop in the middle of a 4 foot string as shown in the picture. Keep it loose. Do not make a knot. Slide the handle of a teaspoon through the loop so the spoon won't slip out. Adjust the spoon so it hangs with the scoop end facing a table. Now press both the ends of the string to your ears. Do not put them into your ears. Swing the string gently so the scoop of the spoon hits the table. Listen to the sound

you hear.

What happens: By swinging the spoon gently you will hear a sound that is nothing like a spoon striking a table. It's more like a bell, a church bell!

Why: The string conducts the vibration of the spoon. Not only does the string carry sound waves better than air, it directs them right into the ear. This accounts for the deep bell like tone you hear. The bigger the spoon you use, like a soup spoon or a serving spoon, the sound gets deeper.

For many more science experiments refer to 365 Science Experiments published by Scholastic.



Jyoti
Swaroop,
Scholastic
India.

Devsh Chauhan has replaced Jude Menezes as goal keeper of the Indian Hockey team. This has happened again midway through the recently held World Cup Tournament.

When Menezes first found a place in the team, it was solely on the merit of his performance records. He had also subsequently been responsible for the team's victory in many tournaments.

Although Menezes claims that he had anyway planned to retire after the World Cup, the fact that he was dropped midway along with the coach Cedric D'Souza (to whom he was very loyal) has created a feeling of insecurity amongst the players.

Yet another

feather in the Aussies' cap!

Chasing a formidable score of 326 set by the South Africans in the sixth one day match, the Aussies made the near impossible - thanks to a captain's innings by Ricky Ponting (92) and a splendid performance by Darren Lehmann (91).

IN THE RIGHT SPIRIT

326 is the highest ever total to be chased successfully. The Aussies won the seven match series 5-1. One match

• World's Top Stars

was the most exciting tie! There are many lessons that one should learn from this Amazing Australian Team.

The Indians are in the West Indies to play the 'Cable and Wireless' five test series to be followed by a one day series.

Big blaster Brian Lara is back into the team having recovered from an injury caused while in Sri Lanka.

Much is expected from the World's Top stars Sachin and Brian. Journals and newspapers all over the world are raving over the possible performances of these two players. It



is not fair perhaps to create a sensation by raising questions and entering into arguments like "Is it going to be Lara or Tendulkar? Who is a better performer?" Such debates and discussions are unhealthy. Let us wish them both good luck and good cricket to be played in the right spirit of the game. After all good cricket is what we are all looking forward to.

- Egnath

GOKULAM



SCHOLASTIC

**GALA
CONTEST**

Dear friends,

This month's puzzle on the next page seems quite simple, doesn't it? But, do not let your eyes deceive you. Count many times before you actually write the answer-although it might test your patience a bit!

ANSWERS TO GALA CONTEST 7

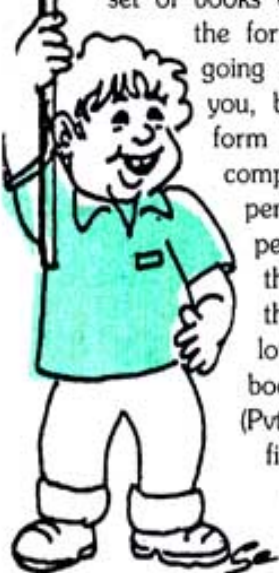
1. Tasmanian Devil 2. Wombat 3. Kangaroo 4. Koala 5. Wallaby
6. Tasmanian Wolf (or) Tasmanian Tiger 7. Opossum

LUCKY WINNERS

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. MAYA KRISHNAMURTY
Bhubaneswar, Orissa | 3. MARY THOMAS
Chennai |
| 2. ABHIRAM G. SANKAR
Attingal, Kerala | 4. P. SABARISHANKAR
Coimbatore |

RULES AND REGULATIONS

- ◆ There will be a contest every month.
- ◆ Four lucky winners will receive a set of books worth Rs.250/- each, from Scholastic India (P) Ltd.
- ◆ Fill in the form on the next page and mail it to us.
- ◆ Strictly for school going children.
- ◆ Any number of entries can be sent by you, but no photocopies.
- ◆ All details asked for in the form must be filled in and complete. Entries without complete details will be rejected.
- ◆ Use a ball point pen to write. Write neatly and clearly.
- ◆ The person with an 'all-correct' entry is the winner. If there are more than one 'all-correct' entries, then the lucky winner/s will be decided by a draw of lot, from out of the all correct entries.
- ◆ The books will be sent to you direct by Scholastic India (Pvt) Ltd. Their decision with the choice of books is final.
- ◆ The last date for receiving entries for each contest will be mentioned in the entry form.





GOKULAM

SCHOLASTIC

GALA CONTEST - 8

ENTRY FORM

Last Date : 12.05.2002

Name :

Age : Class:

School :

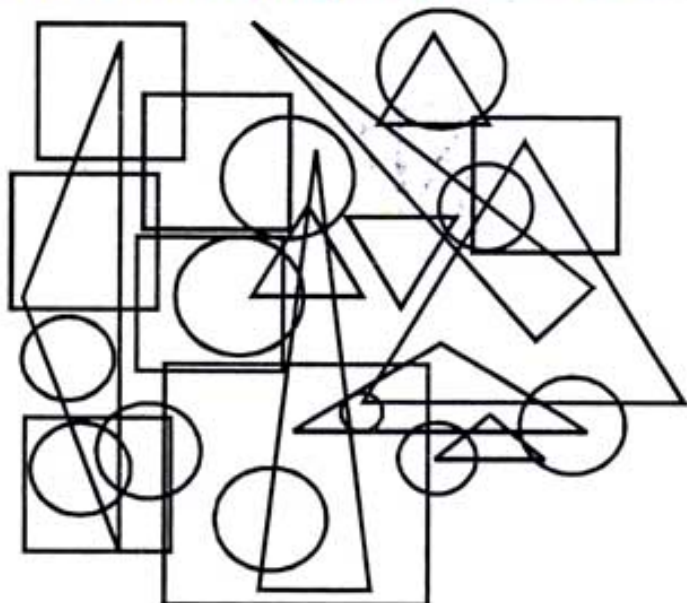
Residential :

Address :

Pin :

Signature :

HOW MANY CIRCLES, TRIANGLES AND SQUARES?



Circles

Triangles

Squares

Mail to :

Editor,
Gokulam (English),
47, Jawaharlal Nehru Road,
Ekkaduthangal, CHENNAI - 600 097.

Roller-skating is a pleasure sport. It should take about two months for you to learn to skate - if you don't injure yourself while learning! But there are guys who have taken even two years to ride independently on their wheels! If you have a talent for skating, then it is a good three years before you can enter tournaments. So it makes sense to start learning this sport when young.



There are different types of skating, like figure skating, speed skating, boat skating, pair skating, hockey skating, artistic skating or ice-skating. But the basic lessons are taught on speed skates and you can slowly graduate to the type you want.

Skates cost anything from Rs.350/- to a mind boggling Rs.10 lakhs!! Whatever be the cost, there are no self-teaching skates and you need a coach to teach you skating! Coach fees may be around Rs.500/- for the first month and Rs.250/- for the consecutive months.

For those who take this sport seriously, there are meets at District, State, National and also International levels, for which the Roller Skaters Association in your city would guide you. Or you can just enjoy the sport for the sheer pleasure of it and skate to the shops, parks and schools instead of walking! It offers some exercise to the abdominal and leg muscles too in the process. - R.S.



ROLLER SKATING

?!

The Sahara in northern Africa is the largest desert in the world. But only 30% of the Sahara is sandy. Most of the remaining land is rocky!



Babu the bear had a great weakness for food. He would never share his food with anybody. Not only that, he had the bad habit of snatching others' food! He forcibly took away Gillu, the squirrel's entire stock of nuts, leaving him in tears. Romi, the rabbit had collected some carrots with great difficulty, as she loved them. But before she could eat even one, Babu grabbed the lot. Similarly, he had on other occasions stolen Grandpa Bear's honey, Manku, the monkey's fruits, Kokku, the crane's fish, Murgi, the hen's eggs and Fikku, the fox's store of meat. Everyone was fed up with him. His parents, Mama and Papa Bear, had received several complaints about him and had scolded him many times. But Babu did not even attempt to change his ways.

One day, as Babu was wandering about the jungle as usual, he came across a sight that made his mouth water. There, on a tree stump, sat a little man. He was drinking with apparent relish, from a small clay pot, a most delicious looking soup that sent off an appetizing aroma. The sight

BABU

affected Babu in the usual way. Without pausing to think he marched up to the little man, and demanded - "Give me that!"

THE

However the little man did not shiver in fright and meekly hand over the pot. Instead he looked boldly at Babu in the eye and said, "This is mine. It's not for you."

"Indeed? How dare you resist me?" roared Babu in fury. He pounced on the little man and gave him a shove that sent him sprawling on the ground. Then Babu grabbed the pot from him.

As he was raising it to his lips the little man spoke again - "I am warning you for the last time - this is not for you!"

Babu did not bother to reply. Reaching his favourite spot, he sat down, lifted the pot and drank its contents in one long draught. The soup was really delicious - more delicious than anything he had had in a long time. Having drunk the last drop, Babu finally decided to lower the pot, when he got the shock of his life!

The pot seemed to have stuck to his hand! Try as he

might, it wouldn't come off. In desperation he tried to smash the pot against a tree but even that was of no avail as the pot simply refused to crack!

Babu burst into tears and ran home. His parents were aghast to see his condition and demanded an explanation. With the pot still stuck to his hand, Babu managed to tell them what had happened. Then his parents too tried to pull off the pot but without success. They finally decided to call upon the entire jungle for help.

A meeting of all the animals in the jungle was urgently summoned. All - even the aged Grandpa Bear - turned up. Sheru the lion - the chief of the animals, described what had happened and asked for suggestions.

Fikku, the fox was the first to speak. "Babu really deserves something like this!" he said. "He is for ever terrorising

cacophony. "I've lost count of the number of times he has grabbed my fruits!"

"He keeps stealing my honey!"

"Last time I had got some ripe mangoes as a special treat for my kids, Babu grabbed them and ate them all!"

Babu hung his head in shame as the accusations against him poured thick and fast.

Finally Murgi, the hen, spoke up. She was a kind-hearted little thing and was moved to see Babu's woe-begone face. "Let us forget all that. Now Babu is facing a problem and needs our help. Let us all think of how we can help him out" she said.

Ulloo, the owl said, "Well, we don't know who that person is but from Babu's description I feel that it could only be

GREEDY BEAR

the weaker animals and grabbing their food by force, and stealing from those who are strong enough to resist him."

"Yes, yes" seconded Romu, the rabbit. "He snatched away my carrots!"

Now all the animals began to speak in excited



?!

The biggest sand dunes are in the Sahara desert. They are up to 430m high, nearly three times the height of the great pyramids!

- **Abhishek Gopal**
Std. VIII,
St. John's
Vestry,
Trichy.



Mayavi, the wizard who lives in our jungle. He must have cast a spell on Babu just to teach him a lesson. May be if Babu goes to him and seeks his forgiveness he will revoke the spell. We could also accompany him."

And so it came about that a shamefaced Babu, accompanied by a delegation of animals, sought out the wizard Mayavi in the jungle cave where he lived.

"Yes, I cast the spell. Many a time, while wandering invisibly through the jungle I have seen the way you behave with your fellow animals. Because of your greed and gluttony I resolved to teach you a lesson. I can revoke the spell if I am convinced that you repent for your misbehaviour and won't repeat it in future" spoke Mayavi.

Murgi, the hen, made a request. "O great wizard, please pardon Babu. He is good at heart and his weakness for food was his undoing. He has learnt his lesson." All the other animals seconded Murgi's plea.

Mayavi said, "See, Babu, how your friends are standing up for you and pleading on your behalf even though you have teased them so much all these days. You had better mend your ways and behave properly in future because I shall be watching your conduct and won't hesitate to cast the spell again if you cause more trouble."

Babu was already in tears. He fell at Mayavi's feet and asked to be pardoned. Mayavi came and stood in front of him, waved his hands in a circular motion thrice, murmured some incantation and lo and behold - the pot detached itself from Babu's hand and went flying into Mayavi's hands!

A chastened Babu wended his way homewards, promising himself and his friends that he had turned over a new leaf and would never ever repeat his despicable behaviour hereafter.

- **Rajee Raman, Chennai.**



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CLUES THAT TELL

Here is a game related to words of the English language. The game is played by giving clues to describe two words that make up a third word.

Things needed: Just a group of children who love to play.

How to play:

● Take turns to be the leader. The leader gives the clues (you can even 'act out' the word) while the others try to guess the answer. Remember, no shouting! Hands up if you know the answer!

Let us take the word carpet. The clues can be given like this:

"A vehicle in which we travel + the animal that you look after at home = the thing that covers the floor in your house."



● When the answer is announced the next person becomes the leader.

FootNote: Try words like butterfly, ladiesfinger, cupboard and so on.

- R. Saran Raj,
Std VII, Sri Sankara Matric,
Chennai.

?!

Saddal-Katera
the oldest dam in
the world is in
Egypt. It was built
in 3000 B.C.

- S. Aarti,
VI-D, Bharatiya
Vidya Bhavan,
Trivandrum.



A very interesting and enjoyable game. The game can be played by two children or a small group (3 - 5) of children.

INDOOR GAMES



Things needed : A sheet of paper and pencils (preferably in two colours) for each child.

How to play :

* Draw a big square and divide it into 5×5 (25) small squares. Fill in numbers from 1 to 25 at random. (Each child fills on his or her card). Write the word BINGO on top. (see illustration).

* Take turns to call out numbers one by one. Score out that number on your sheet like this : /. Continue to call out numbers. When all the five numbers in any row (vertical, horizontal or diagonal) are scored out, then score the entire row using another coloured pencil. For every row thus scored, also score out the letters in the word BINGO one by one. (Illustration 2)

* The person who is first to score out all the five letters in the word is declared winner. If it is a small group, then the others can continue.

Great fun isn't it?

- S. Bala,

NAV Bharat Matric School,
Thanjavur.

BINGO

B I N G O

1	20	11	23	16
18	2	17	22	19
21	3	12	9	15
4	19	6	24	8
13	5	14	7	25

* At the start

~~B~~ ~~I~~ ~~N~~ G O

~~1~~	~~20~~	~~11~~	~~23~~	~~16~~
18	~~2~~	~~17~~	22	19
~~21~~	~~3~~	12	9	~~15~~
~~4~~	~~19~~	~~6~~	~~24~~	~~8~~
~~13~~	~~5~~	~~14~~	7	25

* Game in progress



?!

Dallas has the distinction of having four times more restaurants per person than say the busy New York City. So it is not surprising that one out of every ten Dallas worker is employed by the hospitality industry!



PASTIME

Though the dictionary describes trekking as a "long hard journey", the word has interestingly taken different meanings in different parts of the world.

In Europe, trekking means a hike in the mountains. In the United States, if you hear someone say they trek regularly, they may be just walking over rugged terrain. In Asia, trekking usually denotes hiking- be it over the mountains or across forests. Sometimes a porter may even lug the bag along for the trekker!

Whatever definition we may adhere to, the fact remains that trekking is an adventurous pastime. It is a unique sport that combines exercise, education, vacation and camaraderie. You need to be fit and healthy for a trekking trip, more so because you cannot opt out half way through and say, "Take me home this minute!" Trekking is usually done in groups or at least in twos. There are several places all over India where trekking as a relaxing and nature loving hobby is fast catching on among the youth.

This is what you must remember before going on a trekking adventure:

Clothe comfortably in cottons that don't rustle or swish. Avoid bright colors. Blend with the surrounding environs.

A LONG HARD JOURNEY

You need a monkey cap or a broad-rimmed hat, sturdy, used boots that suit the terrain you are planning to trek, sunscreen lotion, insect repellent, a few guidebooks, a map of the area, trekking pole, hiking staff, air-pillows, sleeping bag and blankets, towels, alarm clock, a note pad and pencil and a first aid kit. Trekking is also the time to keep the eyes and ears open and the mouth shut!

- R.S.



What could be one of the most unpleasant words in a student's dictionary?

HOMEWORK is a good guess!! We have kids running out of the home with a bat and ball at the very mention of the word. We have kids who would move to the TV room or those who will not do the homework at home but scribble it in school. We also have kids who like to be done with their home work first and heave a sigh of relief. We held a discussion between parents, teachers and students on the subject.



ALL WORK AND NO PLAY?

Participants :

1. Geetha Kulkarni (GK)
- Parent
2. B.Jaishankar (BJ) - Parent
3. Lola Shivshankar (LS)
- Teacher
4. S.Samyuktha (S) - Student
5. R.Ranjiv (R) - Student
6. Gurumurthy Padmanabhan (GP) -Teacher

Ranjiv started the discussion with a spirited defence for no homework for higher classes!

R: Homework has advantages and disadvantages. The idea behind giving homework in lower classes is that students shouldn't be playing all the time. For older students, the purpose is to help them understand concepts better. But if the volume is more, children begin to hate homework. Also, as the students reach higher classes, they are responsible themselves and have the discipline to study. Homework is also likely to interfere with the schedule they



?!

What does the word *Canberra*, the important Australian city mean? It means 'meeting place' derived from the aborigine name Kamberra.

- R.S.



have drawn up. No homework for higher classes.

GP: For the bulk of the students, schools are the only guides. What we should aim at is the overall development of the child. I feel homework in Maths is needed everyday and for all other subjects, homework once a week is sufficient. A child should not have homework for more than an hour everyday.

GK: But whose responsibility is it to make sure that children are not overburdened with homework? I take tuitions for children from various schools. And I see some school children who do homework for nearly 3 hours every evening. Over and above that they have regular tests to prepare for.

LS: There are schools like ours where we give homework only in Maths and Science everyday!

S: Actually if we tell the teachers that we have a lot of homework in all the subjects, they reduce it.

R: That varies from school to school. It is ironical that those students who attend tuitions, get homework there also.

BJ: Why do you think children go for tuitions?

GP: It is only when the parents don't find the time to help their children, they are sent to tuitions.

R: There is also the belief among us students that if we don't attend tuitions we will fare miserably in the exams.

LS: Tuitions have become a trend. But do they help?

S: For subjects like languages, they help.

GP: I think up to middle school, it is parental pressure and afterwards it is peer pressure that sends students to tuitions.

GK: Coming back to homework, shall we discuss what in our opinion makes it a necessity?

LS: It is for practice, as repetition is necessary to register a concept. And there is no time in the school to give all that practice because portions are vast.

BJ: The problem arises only when the school does not organize the time.

GP: Homework is also necessary for the teachers to have a feedback.

R: It is to bring a certain amount of discipline in the students, so that they don't sit before the TV all the time!

GK: Don't you ever sit before the TV and do your



Our special invitees in deep discussion.

homework? (Everybody laughs as Ranjiv answers he sometimes does)

BJ: What about Project work? I feel projects kindle the imagination of the children and challenge them.

S : Homework is better than projects!!

R: In all group work like projects, there is one hero, who turns out to be the poor chap to do all the work and the team sits by and takes glory. There is also only cutting and pasting most of the time. It is a waste of time.

LS: The problem arises only when there is last minute preparation for projects.

BJ: Why can't teachers prepare in advance for projects?

GP: Because we too have homework! (Everybody laughs)

GK: What about homework during weekends?

BJ: Application oriented work can be given so that the children enjoy doing it. It is also a time for parents to take an interest in the children's work and spend quality time.

R: Weekdays should be free and you can have more homework on weekends.

S: No homework on weekends.

BJ: I feel the child has to be motivated and the parents should be positive about homework.

R: What about Holiday homework?

S: NO!! No holiday homework!!

GK: But there are schools that give 200 sums and hundreds of questions to be dealt with during the holidays.

BJ: Do the teachers really correct such homework?

R: Never. At the most we may exchange the books and correct our neighbour's homework!

GP: To sum up I would say homework should not be for more than half an hour to one hour for the average child.

R: For higher classes it is not needed at all.

LS: We won't get a proper feedback then. The students need a check. The teachers can organize themselves and give planned homework so that children are not burdened.

BJ: The system of education must be application oriented and not exam oriented. That would automatically solve the issue of homework too!

- 'AKSHU'

Photos : SRIHARI

A FOLK TALE
FROM PAKISTAN
**BAGLAL
HAJI**

Script : C. MOHAN
Art : AJAYAN

One day Baglal Haji visited his aunt.

Auntie! How
did you cook
this chicken?
Its very tasty!

I'll write down the
recipe for you if
you want!



Keeping the recipe in his pocket,
Baglal walked back home.

As soon as I reach
home, I'll cook some
chicken!



On the way he bought a big
chicken.

I am going to have
a delicious meal
very soon!



But...



Damn the
kite! Ouch...!



MALAY FEATURES WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED

Baglal did not lose heart.

Give me another chicken. Cover it with paper this time.

Sure!



As Baglal walked back...



...the kite once again snatched the chicken.



Are you mad? Why are you laughing when the kite has snatched away your chicken?



No! no! Ha-ha-ha... I'm not mad! That kite is a real fool.



But thinks he is clever. What can he do with only the chicken.... I have the recipe for cooking it!



CHECK YOUR CHECK LIST

What we pack and how much depends on how long our trip is going to be, our place of stay, the weather and the mode of travel.

But for any trip there are certain things that we could always carry. An easy way to remember 'must have things' is to go through the checklist at the time of packing.

1. Brushing (tooth paste and tooth brush)
2. Washing (soap for bathing and washing, shampoo, oil, towels)
3. Dressing (Inner garments, dresses, night wear, comb, rubber bands, belt, clips, mirror, make up items and jewellery if any)
4. Medicines, and a first aid kit.
5. Bathroom slippers.
6. Nail clipper, sewing kit, pocket knife, a pair of small scissors, a torch.
7. Some books to read, a note pad and a pencil, a pair of binoculars.
8. Games to play indoor and outdoor (take only one or two).

Prepare this check list first. Add to it anything that you think is missed out and then begin to pack. As you put your belongings inside your travel bag you can tick against it on your check list.

Remind your parents about taking the tickets and the cash. With their permission you may like to take your walk-man and camera with you!

Remember, when we travel overnight by train or bus, always pack those things that we are likely to use during the journey in a separate handbag. If in a suitcase, keep them right on top of other things, so that taking them out will be easy.

Do not forget to carry with you the attitude and the curiosity. Keep your eyes and ears open.

TRAVEL LIGHT ALWAYS. WHEN YOU CARRY TOO MANY THINGS THEN YOU GET SO BUSY TAKING CARE OF THEM THAT YOU MISS OUT ON ALL THE FUN! – R.S.

?!

The Nepalese
celebrate 50
festivals for
120 days in a year!
– S. Aarti,
Std VI,
Bharatiya Vidya
Bhavan,
Trivandrum.



Travellers from antiquity say, persons like Marco Polo, Hieun Tsang, David Livingston, and in recent times Tensing Norkay, Rakesh Sharma and John Glenn carried along with them what you call the traveller's 'possession' which is nothing but an attitude and an ability to wonder, to get excited easily and to be curious and inquisitive all along the journey. If you consciously enhance your ability to observe keenly everything that happens to fall in your sight or perception, you too can feel assured that you are carrying this priceless possession.

In fact it is this curiosity and excitement that had set people to travel. Tensing Norkay, the shy and reserved sherpa was surrounded by journalists and well - wishers on his return from the first ever human feat of trekking the lofty Everest. A reporter asked why he undertook the tedious, yet dangerous journey to the Himalayan Mountain. All that Tensing did say was - "Because the mountain is there." The very existence of the mountain was the potential cause to kindle his curiosity, to nurture the spirit of adventure and no wonder he had made his historic journey to the unconquered peak.

The world is full of beautiful and inviting resources of sight seeing and exploration. Even a casual walk alongside the very familiar temple



THE TRAVELLER'S POSSESSION

tank in your ancestral village should churn out a new feeling of awe and wonderment.

Even if the tank poses a pathetic dry look, get down to the bottom. Feel the sand. Jump and kick and get a feel of the ground. Explore...

Just think about the places you have visited. You remember the places by associating the feelings you experienced when you visited them.

The feelings and emotions that bubble in your heart are trapped as memory in your mind. This memory adds lustre and joy to your life.

Jayasree Sarnathan,
Hosur.

1. AN ADVENTURE IN GOA

Vinaya woke up with a start realising that she was not in her familiar bedroom at home, but in Goa. She jumped out of bed not wanting to waste a minute lying in it as she used to do at home. She went to her sister Udita, four years younger than herself and said, "Wake up, wake up".

Vinaya then went to her cousin Vikram and tried to wake him up. But he rolled over and slept. She brought a fistful of water and sprinkled it on Vikram, saying, "Get up you lazy lump, get up". This had the desired effect. Vikram

?!

The muddiest river in the world is the HWANG HO in China. It carries so much silt that you could build a vast wall 40m high and 6m wide all round the world!

**Abhishek Gopal,
Std VIII,
St. John's Vestry,
Trichy.**



sat bolt upright in bed rubbing both his eyes. As for the other two cousins, Kamala and Leela, Vikram's younger sisters, she had to shout and shake them up as both of them were heavy sleepers.

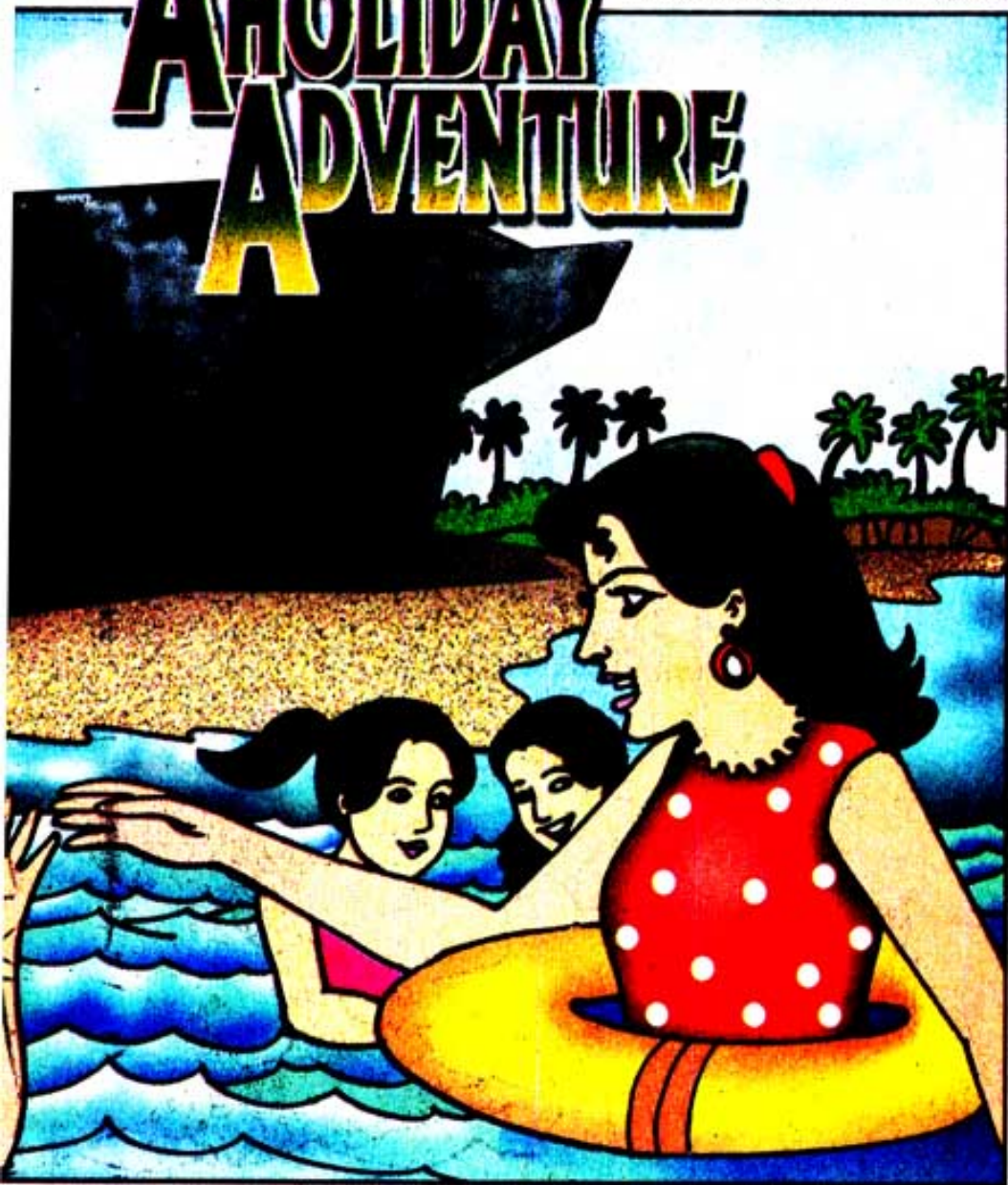
The two families were on holiday in Goa where their grandparents lived. They had a beautiful house, large and spacious but very old and in a state of

RADHA PADMANABHAN

disrepair. The house was the last one on a road which had very few houses. The road went beyond the house and ended at the beginning of a cliff. The beach skirted the road and from the open verandah of the house the grandparents could see the children play.

The children gulped their milk as fast as they could - a thing they

A HOLIDAY ADVENTURE



?!

The world's largest porch swing is located in Hebron, Nebraska. 25 adults can sit in it at one time!

- R.S.



never did in their own homes. Vinaya and her cousins got into beach wear and went across the road to the beach. At that time of the year the sea was shallow and safe for the children to play by themselves. Fishermen were out at sea that morning and the sea was dotted with boats bobbing up and down.

They ran, racing each other down the sands to the shore. Udit, was the first to reach the waters. She was the fastest and had won many races in her school competitions. She was nicknamed P.T.Udit, after P.T. Usha, the winner of the gold medal in the Asian games and she was proud of the name.

Soon, Vinaya took over as the leader as she was the eldest. She was a born leader and organized games and excursions for the cousins when on holiday. "You can wade up to this point and no further", she said clearly in as authoritative a tone as she could muster. And the kids obeyed her except for Vikram, who thought that although he was two years younger than Vinaya, he was a boy and he should really be the leader!

The water was cold and as they dipped their feet in it and allowed the waves to gently pass over, they felt a shiver of excitement. They had a whale of a time, splashing water over each other. They raced each other along the water's edge. All the time Vinaya kept a watchful eye on them.

It was a lonely beach and there was no one as far as eye could see but Vinaya noticed a man with a checked shirt standing far away watching them. He seemed to be doing nothing only watching them, Vinaya thought. "Oh let him watch", she said to herself. "If he could enjoy himself in their enjoyment, let him."

"Its time to go and the sun is getting too hot," Vinaya announced. "Please, please, let's stay", pleaded Leela. She was the youngest and had charming ways. She could twist anyone round her little finger!

It was only after a lot of pleading and coaxing that Vinaya allowed them to stay for a few more minutes. As soon as they started to leave the beach the man also started to go his way. It was strange, Vinaya thought. It was as if he had come to watch only them. Who was this man and why was he watching them with such concentration? The thought was disquieting but Vinaya brushed it aside.



Before they entered the house, they washed their feet thoroughly to get rid of the sand. They sat at the table and soon *Patti*, their grandmother, brought a pile of piping hot *idlies* to the table. *Chutney* and *molaga podi* along with oil, and sugar and a small bowl of ghee made for a perfect breakfast.

"Ugh," said Kamala to Leela, "I just don't know how you can eat idlies with sugar." Leela had a sweet tooth and loved her idlies with sugar and ghee. She had tried her best to eat them with *chutney* and *molaga podi* but hated the taste.

"See", said Leela. "Even I can eat *molaga podi*", dipping a piece of idli into a large quantity of the powder just to show off. Udita preferred *chutney* but she wanted to show off that she was more grown up than Leela. She ate so much of the hot chilly powder that tears started running down her face. "You did that to show off, didn't you? You really don't like *molaga podi*", said Leela.

Vinaya was a little thoughtful all along. She whispered to Vikram that she would like to have a word with him alone. When they got together

she asked "Did you see a man standing at the edge of a cliff watching us?"

"No, I didn't", said Vikram. "But if I did, so what?", he asked.

"He was watching us", said Vinaya.

"So what? Let him. A cat can look at a king", said Vikram.

"Somehow I did not like the way he was watching us...He was...was... not just watching us. He was watching us as if...as if..."

"As if what?"

"I don't know" said Vinaya truthfully.

"Forget it", said Vikram. "You are always imagining things. It comes of your reading too many books. I am sure you are trying to cook up a mystery of some sort. You should run about like me and exercise and not spend so much time on books".

"Okay, okay, you have said this before", said Vinaya.

"Forget the man", said Vikram and ran away to join the others.

Something in Vinaya made her feel very uneasy. But she brushed it aside and followed Vikram.

TO BE CONTINUED...

SHAKES, SALADS, JUICES...

?!

Where would you find the largest motorcycle museum in the world? It is the Barber Vintage Motor sports Museum in Birmingham, Alabama that showcases over 700 motorcycles (although not all are on display at one time)!

- R.S.



The winners will receive a set of recipe books, including one book from Mallika aunty.

POMEGRANATE SHAKE

Ingredients :

Pomegranate - 1
Boiled and cooled milk - 1 tumbler

Sugar - 4 teaspoons
Pista and almond - 4 nos. each

Cardamom (powdered) - 1 teaspoon

Preparation : Take a pomegranate, peel off skin and separate juicy grains in a cup.

Soak almond and pista for half an hour. Peel off skin and grind them to a paste.

Beat the juicy grains of fruits in the mixer by adding cool milk and

then strain.

Add almond and pista paste along with cardamom powder and sugar to the healthy pomegranate shake and enjoy it.

- R. Abinaya Gomathi,
Std. IV, St. Xavier's
Matric Hr. Sec. School,
Tirunelveli.

SUMMER FRUIT DELIGHT

Ingredients : (Serves 4)

Musk Melon - 1
Palmyra palm fruit - 6

Water melon - 3 slices of one inch thick, skinned and diced into pyramid - shaped pieces (The fruit should not be too ripe)

Sugar - 6 Tablespoons



Budding Chef contest - Results



Here's a note from Mallika aunty :

My dear Budding Chefs,

It was very interesting to go through your recipes, written in your own hand writing. Do you know something? Among the many recipes that were received, there was not a single one that was repeated! Each and every entry was different and innovative. It was not an easy task for me to select the best one.

Most of you have also understood the health concept. Eat lots of salads, drink fresh fruit juices and milk shakes. Reduce the "aerated drinks".

Be healthy & happy.

With lots of love to all
of you, Mallika aunty.



Vanilla Essence - $\frac{1}{2}$
Teaspoon

Juice of $\frac{1}{2}$ lime

Method :

a) Scoop out the central fleshy part of the musk melon taking care to discard the seeds and pip.

b) Add 3 tablespoons of sugar and beat in the mixer for a minute.

c) Add the vanilla essence and lime juice and mix-well.

d) Pour into a dish and allow to chill in the fridge for $\frac{1}{2}$ an hour.

e) Skin the palmyra palm fruit and cut into small pieces. Add balance 3 tablespoons of sugar to

it and refrigerate it for half an hour.

f) Once cooled, add the palmyra palm fruit to the chilled musk melon juice and decorate using the water melon pyramids.

- Rumena Ann Arun,
Std. XI, Spartan
Matric HSS.,
Chennai.

MULTIVITAMIN COCKTAIL

Ingredients : (Serves
4 to 5)

Pineapple (cut into
cubes) - 1 cup

Tender coconut water
- 1 cup

Grated carrot - $\frac{1}{4}$ cup

Finely
chopped
spinach
leaves - $\frac{1}{8}$ th of a cup

Sugar - 4 tablespoons.

Orange segments - To
garnish (peeled and
deseeded)

Method :

Grind pineapple, carrot and spinach in a mixer for five minutes at low speed. Then add the coconut water and sugar and run the mixer for five more minutes.

The cocktail is ready.
Serve chilled, garnished
with orange segments.

- V. Krishnan,
Std. XI, Vyasa Vidya
Peetham SSS.,
Palghat.

MAGIC SQUARE

You are the magician. Ask your friends to be seated and get ready to perform...



Things needed : A black board and some chalk or a chart paper and a pen.

How to play : Write out the numbers on the black board or the chart paper in exactly the same order as shown in the illustration.



Write down 671 in a small card and place it inside an envelope before your friends assemble. Seal it and leave it aside.

Call one of your friends and ask her to select any number written on the board or chart.

Circle this number and then strike off all the other numbers that are vertically and horizontally in line with the selected number.

Continue in the same manner until there are no more numbers left to choose.

Ask your friend to add all the numbers that she selected (those that are circled).

When she has given you the answer, ask another child to open the sealed envelope - Hey presto! The number inside the envelope matches your friend's total.

Start all over again and call another friend to repeat the game. You are sure to get the same answer everytime!

- R. Kavya, Std. X,
Swamy's School,
Chennai.

Secret : Whatever be the numbers selected, the total will always be 671!

~~126~~	~~182~~	~~249~~	~~170~~	(117)
~~48~~	(115)	~~172~~	~~93~~	~~40~~
(137)	~~283~~	~~260~~	~~181~~	~~128~~
~~70~~	~~136~~	(193)	~~114~~	~~61~~
~~65~~	~~121~~	~~188~~	(109)	~~56~~

?!

Ninety per cent of the ice and snow in the world is found in the Antarctic!



Magician : Hello! Please come to the stage. Do you know me before?

Child : Ofcourse not, Dad!



Boy : Uncle, shall I tell you a fact?

Uncle : Sure!

Boy : Do you know that a baby weighed 120 kgs when it was born?

Uncle : Wow! Whose baby was it?

Boy : An elephant's baby!

- G. Saravana Gautham,
Coimbatore.

**STOP!
LAUGH...
PROCEED.**

Teacher : What are the benefits of playing?

Student : We don't have to study during that time!

- Rajendra Prasad,
Std.VIII, Sainik
School, Delhi.



Nakul : What time do you wake up during summer?

Rajesh : As soon as the first rays of the sun fall on my window.

Nakul : Isn't that too early?

Rajesh : But, my room faces the West!

- T.C. Archana, Std. VIII,
DAV BHEL School, Ranipet.



Patient : The medicine prescribed by you is not available in any shop, doctor.

Doctor : Oh! I'm so sorry. That's my signature!

- R.V. Selvakumar, Age 13,
Sainik School, Erode.



ACTIONS ONLY



What are these people doing?
Guess...
if not turn to page 71





You too can 'perform' and ask your friends to guess. Is it not a good game to play? You can move on from one single action to a series of actions. Remember, no talking while acting!

?!

A journey on the toy train that runs between Darjeeling and New Jalpaiguri or Shiliguri can be very exciting. The journey takes 7 hours and includes 4 loops. Of the 4 loops in this section, the Batasia loop is particularly remarkable. In this loop the climb is so sharp that the train has to move backwards and forwards a few times to ease its way up!



MY FAMILY

How wonderful it is,
To have a family.
To share all joys and sorrows,
To share everything we feel.

They care when you're lonely,
They share your sorrows.
They help in solving problems,
Which are gone by tomorrow.

To have a good family,
Is God's best gift.
When you are feeling low,
They always give you a lift.

I thank God for my lovely family,
A family of love and happiness.
Thanks to my family,
My joy is never less.

- Samyukta Sridhar, Std. XII B,
Church park, Chennai.



John was a teenage boy. Unlike other children of his age interested in fashion, eating out and films, John was an animal lover. He spent his free time watching animal related programmes on television. He wished to have a pet of his own. His parents were firm that he could not have a pet because both of them were working. They explained to him that having a pet called for special care, cleaning and washing and most importantly taking it to the vet whenever necessary. They knew John would take care of the pet well but he could not manage his studies, tuition and this all at the same time. John was very disappointed - how he longed to have a pet!

John's idea was completely shattered, after hearing what his parents said, until one day he found an advertisement in the newspaper. It was from one of the pet organizations in the city. They had introduced a new scheme for children who could not have pets in their house. It was titled 'Adopt a Pet'. The children could adopt a pet of their choice by paying a very nominal fee and could come and visit it every week. They could also bring food, and play with it for some time. The idea sounded great and John showed his parents the advertise-

ment. They too agreed as it was a nice idea and they could afford some time and money for the joy of their son! John went to the organization with his parents and filled his name in their register. He quickly went with one of the officials to select his pet. He chose a golden-brown cocker spaniel pup. He carried it in his arms and cuddled it as it moved its tiny, bushy body over him, whining. He fed it with warm milk and watched with his heart overflowing with joy, as it quickly started licking the milk. John spent some time with his pet and went back home. He now had a pet of his own. His wish had been fulfilled!

- H. Lakshana, Std IX,
Bhavan's Rajaji
Vidhyashram, Chennai.

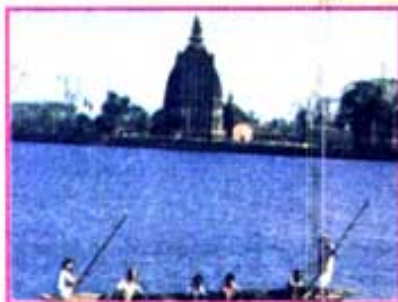
THE

PET





Black



Hidden in the lap of the eastern Himalayas are the seven North Eastern States, also known as the Seven Sisters or Seven Gems.

It is a land unique in many respects compared to the rest of India. It has the maximum number of tribes speaking several tribal languages. It is also a sensitive region sharing international borders with as many as four countries - China, Bhutan, Burma and Bangladesh. Permission has to be obtained from the local administration for visiting states other than Assam, Meghalaya and Tripura!

Also known as the "Tea Basket" of India, the North Eastern states offer an exciting holiday amidst scenic natural environs that combines a peep into the culture, arts and handicrafts unique to each state. We take you on an exciting tour along the Land of River Brahmaputra.

ASSAM - Guwahati

House of the best tea gardens of India, Assam is a verdant, lush state with a vibrant metro. The mighty Brahmaputra majestically flows along picturesque Assam that is blessed with an unusually rich flora of luxuriant forests, beautiful orchids



THE LAND OF RIVER BRAHMAPUTRA

and an equally rare and rich fauna.

Assam is famous all over the world as the home of the Indian One-horned Rhino. The Kaziranga National park has the rare distinction of not only saving it from the verge of extinction but also increasing its population.

Assam is also famous for Handicrafts made from bamboo and cane that grow abundantly here. The Cotton and silk fabrics woven by the Assamese depict folklore themes and are a treat to the eyes.

Tribal dance forms and songs form essential features of the various festivals like the springtime Bihu festival or the Kherai Puja.

ARUNACHAL PRADESH : Itanagar

AP is India's Land of the Rising Sun and is a tourist's paradise with lush green forests, variety of wildlife, ancient ruins and breathtaking scenery. It has a fascinating landscape ranging from snow capped Himalayas to tropical plains, coniferous to temperate and tropical evergreen forests.

Weaving artistic carpets, shawls, skirts and jackets, carving, painting semi-religious motifs on wood and weaving intricate patterns with cane are the widely practiced handicrafts of the state.

The four wildlife sanctuaries at Pankuli, Loli, Itanagar and Namdapha, the

?!

The Santaland, Amusement Park in Rovaniemi, Finland is located inside a large cavern blasted out of a mountain!

- R.S.



historic capital city of Itanagar also known as the "Land of the Dawn lit Mountains", Tipi- on the banks of the river Bharali with its over 7500 orchids, Bomdila that offers panoramic views of the Himalayas and Tawang-the Buddhist pilgrimage site of the 400 year old Tawang Gompa monastery form the state's interesting tourist spots.

MANIPUR : Imphal

Meaning "jewelled land", Manipur is the green corner of Northeast India where Mother Nature has been generous with her bounty. An oval shaped valley with cascading rapids, rivers and carpets of flowers surrounded by blue green hills and a land rich in art and tradition has earned Manipur terms like the "Switzerland of the East".

Home of the famous and graceful Manipuri dance that legend says the Gods practiced, Manipur is also ironically famous for its martial arts such as free

style wrestling, sword fight and spear dance.

Manipuri women excel in weaving intricate designs on sarees, sarongs, shawls and bedspreads. Manipuri pottery that is astonishingly made without the potter's wheel boasts of a rich variety of handcrafted earthenware. Beautiful pieces of art made from bamboo, cane, weed mats, Manipuri dolls and carvings from rare and exotic varieties of timber are added attractions for a tourist to this state.

MEGHALAYA : Shillong

Called the 'Abode of the Clouds', Meghalaya is a small state full of fertile valleys and undulating hills. Formed as a separate state in 1972, Meghalaya is divided into three hilly regions- the Garo Hills, the Khasi Hills and the Jaintia Hills.

Directly influenced by southwest monsoons, Meghalaya has a distinct and interesting vegetation



belt. In a radius of 10 miles from Cherrapunjee in Khasi Hills, there are more than 2000 flowering plants.

The Wangala or the 100-drum festival held in November- December is a harvest festival. Another interesting dance festival is the Doregata dance where the women try to knock off the turbans of their male partners using their heads! Meghalaya is also known for the Pomelo dance that requires exquisite skill.

MIZORAM : Aizwal

Covered with thick bamboo forests, Mizoram boasts of a rich variety of wildlife in its Dampa Sanctuary. The Khumbeu ceremonial hat made of waterproof Hnahthial leaves is a traditional handicraft item of Mizoram.

Tamdil, the largest lake is a good picnic spot, while Champai is a bustling town and is the base from which trekkers start their trail.

NAGALAND : Kohima

Naga communities predominantly dominate Nagaland that has variations in altitude, climate and soil resulting in a diversity of forest types. It is inhabited by 16 major tribes along with other sub-tribes that are distinct in character from the others in terms of customs, language and dress. It is a land of folklore passed down through word of mouth from one generation to next.

Music is an integral part of life of the Nagas that include folk songs praising

ancestors or the bravery of warriors and heroes. The present generation of Nagas has ventured into fashion designing on a large scale, reproducing fabrics that represent the ancestral motifs blended with modern appeal.

Ideal for trekkers, mountaineers and rock climbers, Nagaland offers limitless possibilities for adventure and exploration.

TRIPURA : Agartala

It is a tiny state with an ancient history surrounded in mystery. It is also a storehouse of tribal crafts, culture, music and dance. The songs are mostly related to their days work and different songs are sung on different occasions. Dancing compliments the music. The Garia dance is very popular among the people of Tripura.

Even Tagore has sung the praise of this place when he said, "the woodlands of Tripura have sent out an invitation for their floral feast through their courier of the South Wind and I have come here as a friend".

Deft at using bamboo, be it for building homes or toys, the people craft a lot of items like trays, vases, photo frames, caskets or pen stands from bamboo that is freely available here.

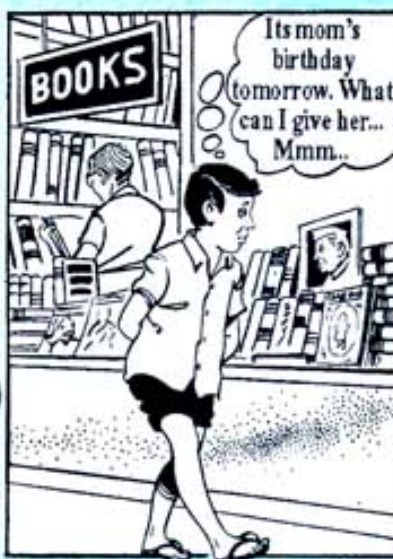
- Radhika Sasankh

Pictures courtesy : www.media-software.com,
www.primetravels.com

BALU THE BULLY

Story :
KAUSIKAN

Illustration :
CHELLAPPAN



It's mom's birthday tomorrow. What can I give her... Mmm...

BUDDING CHEF!

This looks great! A recipe book for a variety of sweets. Mom is sure to be happy.



Happy birthday mom! I hope you like this gift. I bought it specially for you.

Really! How sweet of you Balu. Thanks a ton.



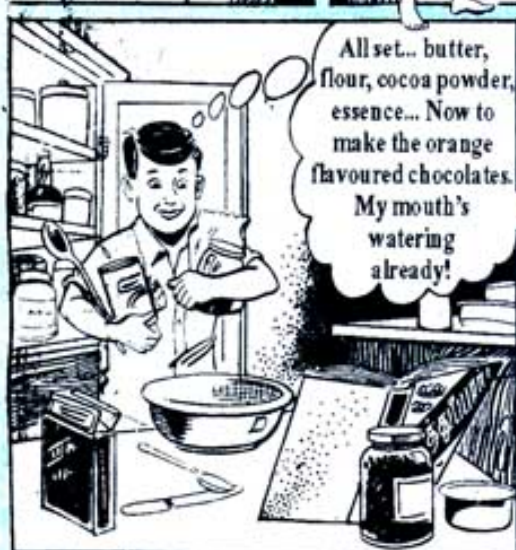
Next morning -

Where are you off to mom? I thought you would try out those recipes today.

Not today Balu. I am in a hurry right now. Take care, okay!



These recipes seem very simple. I am sure I can manage on my own. Let me surprise mom!



All set... butter, flour, cocoa powder, essence... Now to make the orange flavoured chocolates. My mouth's watering already!

The proportions for the mix were not difficult. All I have to do now is to bring the mixture to a boil and ...



In a short while -

Oops! It's boiling over and the book doesn't say what to do!

Oh God! It's all over the stove now. What a mess. Let me remove this first...

Goodness me! It's all up in flames!



Balooo... What are you upto?

No mom.... I was only trying to...

Here's your son. Cooking is his latest hobby. Shower him with your appreciation.

Ten minutes later -

Thank God! This book served as a cushion and dad didn't notice. It has been more useful to me than to mom after all!

I am nowhere near mom when it comes to cooking anyway! Well, it's time to say goodbye!





?!

The
Amusement
Park with the
maximum
number of
Roller Coasters
is Cedar Point
in Sandusky,
Ohio, with 13
coasters!

- R.S.



Deepak and his friends are playing cricket in the play ground near by. It's a hot day and the sun shines right over their heads. Within an hour of play, Deepak faints...

Deepak must have fainted due to extreme heat. The warm atmosphere, poor air circulation, unsuitable clothing and exposure to direct heat have contributed to the sudden temporary loss of oxygen supply to the brain, resulting in the fainting.

Help Deepak to lie down in a 'head low and feet raised' position. Do not crowd around him. Allow free circulation of air. Loosen his clothes. When Deepak recovers, he can be made to sit down. Then, give him sips of cool lime and salt water solution. This helps to balance the loss of fluids due to excessive sweating. You may take him to the doctor once he gains some energy.

Mom sent Vicky and Rathna to buy some milk. As the children turn the corner, they spot the ice cream man. They know that it is not the 'known' brand but still they cannot resist the temptation...

There is absolutely no excuse in this case. If Vicky and Rathna knew that it was not a 'known brand' they had no business to buy it. They would most certainly land in trouble falling sick the next morning, down with an upset tummy. They'd be lucky not to have more severe problems like diarrhoea, jaundice, cholera or typhoid.

This is true not only of ice creams but also any other 'junk' food sold on the road side - sugar cane juice, fruits kept open and hence contaminated, all kinds of fast food and so on.

Let us remember the saying 'prevention is better than cure'. The first and foremost step would be to resist the temptation. If you are hungry or thirsty, drink hot drinks or

THE DOCTOR'S DESK



fresh juices made at home. Eat only boiled, cooked food. Aerated drinks and juices in tetra packs that contain preservatives in them should be avoided - or atleast taken only on very rare occasions.

Sunil has had a restless night. Tossing and turning in bed, he was unable to get any sleep. He feels itchy even now and has developed tiny



rashes under the neck and under the arm pits...

The rashes are very typical to summer. Sunil has probably developed a fungal infection that has affected his skin. Excessive sweating could be the reason for the rash or it could be sun burns caused by the ultra violet rays of the sun.

Anti fungal ointments, calamine lotions, prickly heat powders may help. Again, bathing twice a day, drying with a clean towel, washing your hands and legs, avoiding outdoor activity during mid afternoon and wearing comfortable cotton clothes all help in preventing the

occurence of the rash.

Kiran and Motu are holidaying in their grandparents house in the village. Their parents are not with them. The children love the ponds and pools and spend most of their time out in the water, until one fine morning Kiran wakes up with a very high fever. He has no medicines with him...

To be in the pools and ponds in the village is fun, particularly because you would never get that opportunity in the cities. However, it is important to make sure that you are not in it for too long. It is also important that these pools and ponds are clean and not contaminated - but this is not likely to be so.

Having been in water for too long, it is not a surprise that Kiran ended up with fever. The fever is the result of some severe infection caused by the presence of different kinds of bacteria in the water. Ear infections, stomach upsets (due to the swallowing of the water), eye infections, throat and respiratory infections, skin infections... the list can go on.

The worst scenario is that the parents of Kiran and Motu have been careless in not sending the first aid medicines with them considering the kind of place they visited - a village! There is no excuse for this what so ever. It is important not only to pack the medicines for the children but also to educate them about it.

- Dr. R. Parthasarathy

MAKE ROOM FOR LOGIC

?!

Leh, the headquarters of Ladakh has the highest airport in the world!



Here are six children spending their holiday time together. Kabir and Aarthi love to read. Ramya is a bit lazy but her younger brother Rahul is the naughtiest of all. David and Swathi are good friends and often play together.

Each one of these children has a room in the house that you can see in the background. Can you see the six windows? Now, use the given logic and find out which room (or window) belongs to which child

- Aarthi's room is above Ramya's.
- Kabir's room is between Swathi's and Ramya's.
- Swathi's room is near the tree.
- David's room is closer to Aarthi's than Rahul's is.

- Neeraj S. Kallimani,
Std VIII, St. Paul's HS,
Belgaum.





Answers: A - Rahul, B - David, C - Anshul,
D - Sonali, E - Kabir, F - Ranvya

?!

Interstate 80 – the highway running nearly 4700 km from New Jersey on the Atlantic coast to San Francisco on the Pacific coast does not have a single traffic light on the way!

Is the reading habit on the decline? Have people in general and children in particular succumbed to the influence of TV? Our faith in the children of today is such that we do not wish to believe so.



LOOK OUT FOR A LIBRARY

Reading is a pleasure; a joy. Reading helps to increase your vocabulary and fluency in the language. Reading is a healthy pastime.

Books are a treasure house of knowledge. Buying books to read is indeed an expensive proposition. Although attempts are being made to publish good children's literature, not many can really afford to possess these books. The best thing to do under these circumstances would be to make use of your school library as often as you can or allowed. In addition, you may also become a member of a lending library that is in your locality.

It is a fact that libraries for children are very few and there is bound to be a dearth of children's



literature in the regular libraries. But to make a beginning, it is the best place.

with patience. Usually the story books (fiction) are kept separate from the

reference section (non-fiction). The books are consolidated under the author's name and you'll find them displayed in alphabetical order.

Pay attention to the kind of books you read! Initially, it may be those that offer you some relaxation or even comics. But do not miss out on the classics for they are the books that offer you the depth. Reading a classic may be boring, tedious and even frustrating at times due to the challenges it offers in style, place, time and length. But do take up the challenge and you are sure to succeed.

Remember, books are precious. Handle them with care. Do not leave them lying all around your house. Turn the pages carefully. Do not read while you eat. This may soil the book. The moment you find one or two pages falling apart, put them in place by taping them down. Get the book bound if necessary.

Within a few days of becoming a member you'd find yourself being drawn into the habit of reading until one fine day you would have plunged into the world of literature.



Visit the library and talk to the librarian. Find out the stock of books for children. Enquire about the membership fee (a one time payment) and get to know the rules and regulations. Normally you would have to pay a very small fee for every book borrowed. There is bound to be a time limit for returning the books which if exceeded, you'll have to pay a late fee and ofcourse a fine if the book is mishandled or lost.

Choose your books carefully. Browse through the shelves

?!

Howrah Bridge in Kolkata is the busiest bridge in the world. Over 60,000 vehicles and about a million people cross this bridge everyday!



Name : P.S. Veeraraghavan
Age : 14
Address : 22, Ramalinga Nagar IInd Cross, K.K.Pudur, Coimbatore - 641 038.
Hobbies : Collecting stamps, playing cricket and chess, reading novels, watching T.V. and making friends.

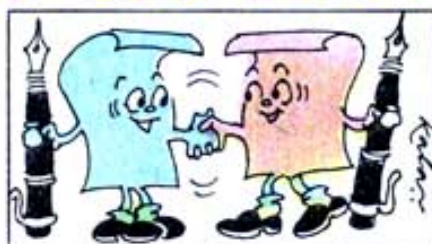
Name : Ankita Shukla
Age : 13
Address : I.H.P. Co. Staff Qtrs., Room No.11, Antophill,

Address : L-52, O.U.Campus, Tarnaka, Hyderabad - 500 007.
Hobbies : Painting, reading story books, collecting stamps, watching T.V. and playing carrom.

Name : Rose Rohini Varatharajan

Age : 16
Address : No.19, Dias Lane, Batticaloa, Srilanka.
Hobbies : Collecting stickers, collecting beautiful landscapes, reading story books, playing tennis and watching T.V.

PENPALS



Mumbai - 400 037.
Hobbies : Dancing, singing, making friends, collecting stamps, reading and listening to music.

Name : Paroma Banerjee
Age : 16
Address : Block G/19, Govt. Housing Estate, Budge Budge Road, S.M. Nagar, 24, Parganas (South), Sarkarpool (PO) West Begnal - 743 382.

Hobbies : Dance, music, painting, driving, reading, swimming, cooking and collecting stamps

Name : V. Ramya
Age : 13

Name : S. Vishnu Visakh
Age : 14
Address : PRA 50, 'Panchajanyam', Medical College (P.O.), Thiruvananthapuram Dist. - 695 011.

Hobbies : Reading books like Gokulam, watching and playing cricket, listening to music and drawing.

Name : J. Poornima
Age : 14
Address : Flat No.15, Block 02, Kokila, Nandhi Gardens, Anjanpura Post, Bangalore - 560 062.

Hobbies : Drawing, reading Enid Blyton's books, reading Gokulam, writing letters, painting, cycling, skating and playing computer games.

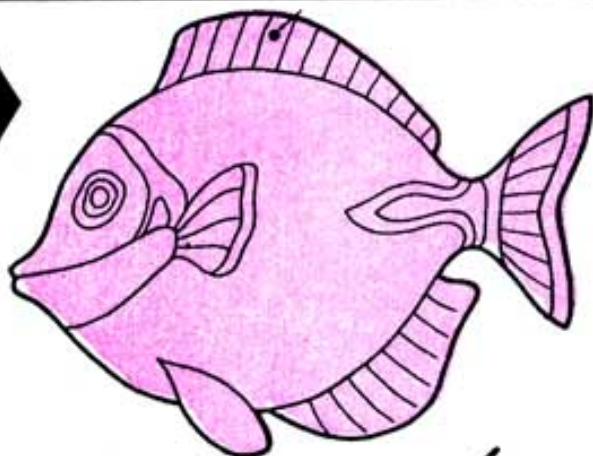
FISHY DANGLERS AND POTATO HEADS



We give below only the list of things needed to make the above items. Along with the list, you have a set of step-by-step illustrations. Go ahead and make them as colourful and as attractive as possible!

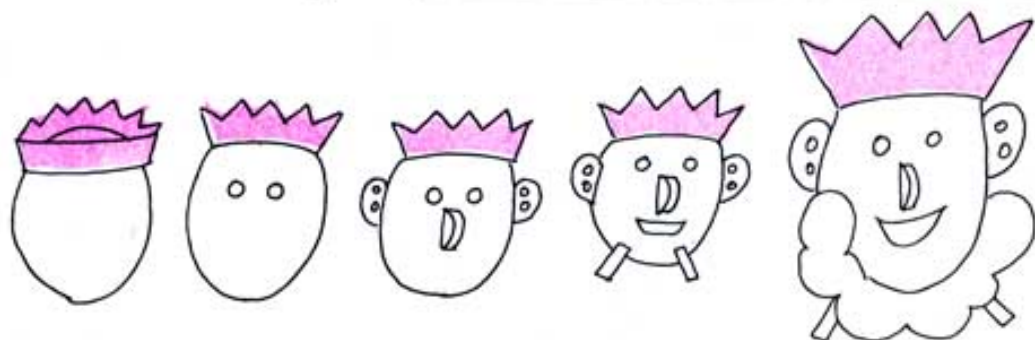
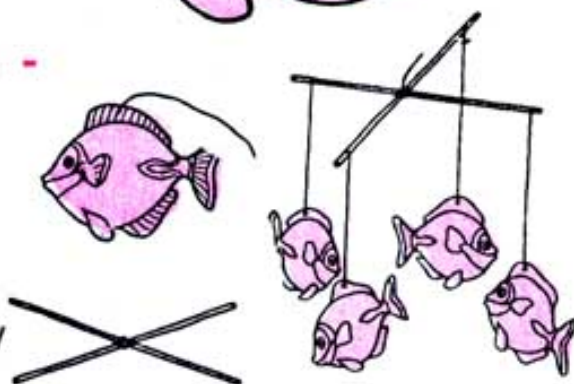
I. DANGLERS - THINGS NEEDED

Card board, pencil, scissors, paints or colour pencils, string, four long sticks.



II. POTATO HEADS - THINGS NEEDED

Potatoes, card board, board pins, buttons, ice cream sticks or any sturdy sticks



?!

Brazil is the largest country in South America. It gets its name from a red wood called paubrasil!



The Ajanta caves which is in Aurangabad have been designated as a World Heritage Site. These are rock-cut caves which form the shape of a gigantic horseshoe. Some of the earliest Buddhist architecture, cave-paintings and sculptures are seen here. These caves comprise of Chaitya Halls or shrines, dedicated to Lord Buddha and Viharas or Monasteries used by Buddhist monks for study of Buddhist teachings. The paintings

AJANTA CAVES

- A world heritage site

depict incidents from the life of Buddha. Among the paintings are the Jataka tales, illustrating stories relating to incarnations of Buddha.

The caves are classified into two distinct phases. The first is the Hinayana phase in which the Buddha was worshipped only in the form of certain symbols. The second is the Mahayana phase in which the Buddha was worshipped in his physical form.

There are in all 25 caves of which 15 are unfinished caves.

Cave 1 : This is the finest Monastery of Ajanta. Graciously posed Bodhisatt-



vas with head dresses adorn the doorway. On its either side are two of the best murals - Bodhisattva Padmapani holding a lotus and Bodhisattva Vajra-

dwarfs.

Cave 6 : This cave has two levels and has a splendidly carved entrance. The lower hall has 16 octagonal columns. The upper hall has only one painting, depicting a gift by a monk.

Cave 7 : This cave is rectangular in plan with a monolithic hemispherical stupa in the centre. Traces of wall paintings can also be seen.

Cave 10 : This was the earliest

cave excavated at Ajanta. The paintings reveal a royal patronage accompanied by soldiers and musicians worshipping the Bodhi tree and the stupa.

Cave 12 : This cave is among the earliest of Monasteries. Its doorways in the hall are topped with arched chaitya windows.

Cave 13 : It is a small monastery belonging to the earlier phase of excavation. The hall has 7 narrow cells.

Cave 15 : A two - tiered structure, it has a stupa with a canopy of serpent hoods in the lower tier. The upper tier has a chaitya window with a pair of beautifully carved pigeons.

- Ashwini Sheshasayee,
Std. VIII, Lok Puram Public
School, Thane.



pani holding a thunderbolt accompanied by musicians and flying figures. The left wall of the hall shows scenes from Mahajanaka Jataka and the right wall shows scenes from Champeyya Jataka.

Cave 2 : In this cave the ceiling is painted with a large medallion with delicate bands of lotuses and abstract geometric patterns. Episodes connected with the birth of Buddha occupy the left wall.

Cave 4 : This is the largest monastery at Ajanta. It has a doorway embellished with guardians, flying figures, maidens clutching trees and images of Buddha and the

?!

Sydney is famous for its harbour bridge which is one of the largest in the world. It has two railway tracks, a road wide enough for 8 lanes of traffic, a path for cyclists and a path for pedestrians. The bridge was opened in 1932 and links the southern half of the city to the northern half!



“Tell her I'm not at home!” Sister Undir yelled out to Brother.

“But..., this is the third time Rani is

You've been acting strangely!



calling you!” exclaimed Brother surprised.

“That's too bad! I just don't feel like talking to her!”

“But why? You've been acting strangely!”

“Oh, I don't know! Its just that she makes me feel so guilty! Rani questions me if I just talk to others... I have to sneak around! If I do well in a test I feel I should hide my grades, as if I've done something wrong! Something is definitely wrong!”

“Seems as if she is jealous!”

“Its not just that! Its terrible! I feel like dodging her all the time!”

“And, yet, you are such good friends! OK, I'll tell her you're in the bathroom!”

Sister flopped down on her bed. She had been feeling quite rotten about her friendship with Rani mouse. Brother came and snuggled up. “Rani didn't believe me!” he said.

“Hmm! I should have guessed. She's quite smart. She

knows I'm avoiding her!"

The next day at school Maths Miss set a surprise test for Sister's class. Rani was sitting on the bench next to Sister. "Show me!" she whispered under her breath. Sister heard, but at first pretended not to. "Move your left hand! Hurry up!" Rani was insistent. Sister could not stop herself. She moved her hand and showed her work to Rani.

"Now turn the page! The previous sum! Hurry, hurry!"

FRACTIONOUS FRIENDSHIP

Sister turned the page. But it made her feel rotten. She felt like avoiding Rani even more.

The bell rang. Teacher collected all the test papers and left for the staff room. After teacher, Sister left the class with her lunch bag without looking at Rani. She joined some others. Rani ran right behind her and grabbed her collar.

"Hey! Where are

AN UNDIR STORY

you running off to? Wait for me!" yelled Rani mouse, bringing her lunch basket with her.

Sister waited, dejected and unsure of herself. "What is wrong with you?" demanded Rani.

"Me??? Nothing at all!" replied Sister, glumly.

"Something is definitely up. Tell me! Come on! You took so long to show me your work! I just wanted to cross check whether I was getting the same answers! Aren't you my friend?"

"May be I'm not very well," replied Sister, feeling trapped. They ate lunch together, but in silence.



?!

France is the only country where mosquitoes are not found!

- H. Sagar,
Std VIII,
Vasavi Educational
Trust,
Banglore.



"You've changed! I wanted to check whether you really are my friend... but you hesitated to show me your work!" declared Rani, finally. "Don't you like me any more?"

That made Sister Undir feel even more rotten. "Why does she question and test me?" thought Sister. "Can't she understand at all? I like her a lot, but I also want to be free to have other friends! To do the best I can without worrying about how Rani will react!"

In the evening Sister and Brother Undir discussed the matter again. "I think you should just tell her you don't want to be friends any more!" he suggested.

"That's too drastic! How can I say such a thing?"

"Why? You're a scaredy rat! Do you really want to be popular with Rani, whatever be the cost?!"

"But isn't her brother, Raja, your friend?"

"So what? That doesn't mean his sister can do what she likes! If she really likes you she should not make you avoid her!"

Papa and Mama Undir overheard the conversation. Sister saw Papa at the door and ran to hug him.

"She was my best friend, Papa, but now I think I'm beginning to hate her! I sometimes wish she would just disappear! But I know she likes me very much! Too much!"

She was my
best friend,
Papa, but...



She won't let me be friends with anyone else!"

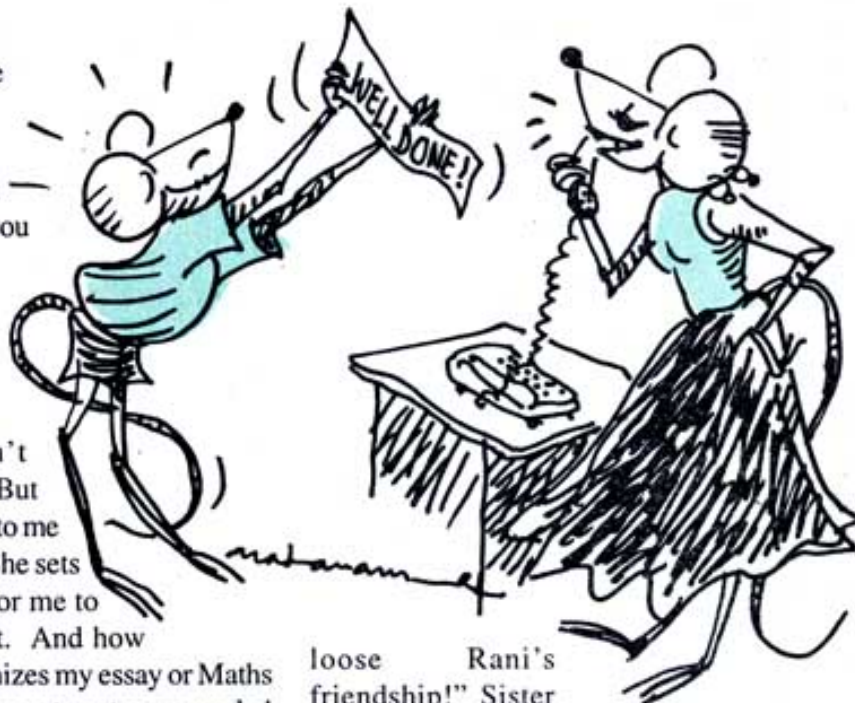
"You mean she actually says you can't talk to anyone else?" asked Papa, looking very surprised.

"She doesn't actually say that! But she makes it clear to me by her behavior. She sets these little tests for me to see how I'd react. And how closely she scrutinizes my essay or Maths homework if I happen to get more marks! When she does well in Social Studies or Art, I don't complain!"

Mama simply smiled and left the room. Papa hung around trying to comfort Rani who was weeping freely by now.

All this made Papa Undir think about his early days with Mama. Had he also been like Rani? Had he made Mama so miserable? He remembered Mama getting very annoyed with him and even crying, just like poor Sister! They'd had quite a few early quarrels! Papa remembered questioning Mama's loyalty. "I wanted her to prove that I was more important to her than her own parents!" he remembered. Slowly Mama had completely stopped talking about the subject. It had become a taboo topic between them.

"What can I do Papa? I don't want to



loose Rani's friendship!" Sister asked.

"I think you need to initiate a dialogue with Rani. She may avoid or pretend she does not understand (like I used to, said Papa Undir to himself)...but she will. Bring it out in the open!"

"And if we have an open quarrel?"

"Its worth the risk...Tell her you are uncomfortable and unhappy with the friendship. You need to enjoy the relationship and stop feeling nervous about spending time with Rani! Just remember, you are pretty miserable as it is, aren't you? It can only get better!"

"I must make that phone call!" said Sister, making a face.

Papa went to Mama. "I think I need to say sorry!"

"What about, may I ask?" asked Mama Undir, her eyes twinkling. She pretended she did not understand.

"Do you really want to drag it out of me?"

?!

Monumental Axis, in Brazil, is the world's widest road. 160 cars can drive side by side on this road!

- Suresh K. Anjum,
Kolkata.



"OK, OK! I forgive you!" she grinned, giving Papa a light punch and a hug. What a relief it was to get the old matter out of the way! How pleased and relieved Papa was too! There would no longer be any topics to be avoided between them.

Sister Undir made the call. Rani picked up the phone. "Hullo! Who's this?"

Silence. Sister found it difficult to start. Brother came along to support Sister and prevent her from chickening out. He started making exaggerated encouraging signs.

"Who is it? Hullo!"

"Its me" said Sister Undir.

"Hi! What's the matter? This is a surprise! You've not been calling me up these days!"

"There's something specific I want to say. That is why I called." Sister was making wild gestures of nervousness by now to Brother. Brother Undir grinned, but kept up his support. "It would be very funny if Rani saw you now!" he whispered.

For a few long seconds there was utter silence on the phone on both sides. The tension was tight, like the guts of a tennis racquet. But soon Sister picked up courage and poured out everything that was bothering her. She realized that Rani herself had been half expecting something like that to happen. It was all over in five or six minutes.

"How would you like it to have happened in reverse? With me behaving like you are? I'm saying all this because you are important to me! Otherwise I could have simply stopped talking to you!" was what Sister finally said. On a sheet of paper Brother wrote out:

WELL DONE!

and flashed it before Sister, who smiled in response.

"I understand..." a subdued Rani replied. "To tell you the truth, I'm glad in a way that its out in the open so we can do something about it."

"So much better than hiding the problem."

The two of them decided to renew their friendship on a new footing.

Anuradha K. Rajivan

Beena : Let's meet during the holidays.

Radhika : Yes let's do that. I'll come over to your house on Saturday.

Beena : But I have painting class on Saturday. There's Sabitha's birthday party too on Thursday.

Radhika : I am going to my karate class just now. I can't make it on Thursday either. My mother's taking me to the Arts Centre to see if I can start learning dance.

Beena : Well the week after that I am going to a Science camp for three days.

Radhika : Gosh, I think we will be able to meet only when we get back to school after the holidays!

Beena : How boring! Our parents will be away at work and we have so much to do... there's really no time for...

Everywhere in the world people know that families are important. "We must try to spend more time with our children!" say the parents sometimes. In the midst of their busy lives, some parents do try to find the time to spend with their children - only to find that their children are too busy!

It's really important to spend time with the people you love. But finding the right time and the right way to spend time together is difficult. Let's look at a few scenarios and see if people are actually spending time together or not.

Rakesh and his daughter **Anju** are in the backyard on a late Sunday afternoon watering the plants.



SPENDING TIME TOGETHER

"Have you prepared for your test, Anju?" asks father.

"Yes dad! But I am still tense about it. Do you think this plant needs more water?"

"I think so. I too have a heavy day tomorrow with a difficult meeting in the morning. Get me another bucket of

?!

The Ningaloo Reef in Western Australia is the largest coral reef stretching 260 km in length. It is close to the shore and you can walk alongside it on the beach. It is also where you can snorkel and watch colorful coral gardens or swim alongside giant whale sharks!

- R.S.



water, dear."

Priya lands up at the back door with a tray containing a pot of tea and some biscuits.

"Why don't you take a break? We could sit down by the well for some tea and biscuits" suggests Priya.

The three of them sit together. "These biscuits are delicious mom. Where did you buy them?"

"At the usual store yesterday. Rakesh, when are you planning your next tour?"

"Thursday, probably."

"Its so pleasant out here dad, particularly on a Sunday evening..."

★★★

It is a hot summer afternoon. The fan swishes gently overhead. Tara is at her desk writing an article. She is a journalist and has to submit her piece that very evening. Her little daughter, four-year-old Ranu is in the room close to her mother but is in her own world. She has made a house by joining two chairs (dragged close to her mother's desk)! In her kitchen are little utensils. Ranu hums softly as she cooks a delicious lunch on her toy stove. Tara smiles to herself as she looks up. "What's for lunch today Ranu?" she asks.

"I am frying some puris, Amma. My daughter Radha can have hot puris when she wakes up!" Tara smiles again and turns to her writing.

An hour passes. Tara caps her pen and sighs. She flexes her tired hand. She looks around and there is Ranu in her house feeding her daughter puri. "Ranu -

did Radha enjoy the puris?" she asks. Ranu's little head peeps out. "Yes amma. Have you finished your work?" Tara smiles. "Yes I have finished. Thanks for being so patient. I will make myself a cup of tea and get you some milk in a few minutes. Then I can tell you a story." she says. Ranu grins in delight.

★★★

Its eight o'clock in the evening. The family settles down for dinner.

"Oops! I forgot all about it. My



favourite cartoon
should be on now!"

Arun picks up his plate with his food in a great hurry and runs to sit in front of the television.

"I think you should be at the table, Arun" says dad.

"Come on dad! This is the only time I get to watch TV. Be a sport" replies Anu as he makes himself comfortable in front of the TV.

"This is the problem" says mother, "Arun always has his way."

"I suppose we have to bring in some sort of a rule. Let's talk to Arun about it first. After all dinner time is an opportunity for spending time together." replies dad.

★★★

*What happens in your respective homes?
Think about it.*

- Rukmini Ramachandran

Contest

WRITE A JOKE

Here's a picture. Study it carefully and write a suitable joke for it. The best joke will receive a cash prize of Rs.100/-. Second and third prizes of Rs.75/- and Rs.50/- respectively will also be awarded. And surely, there are two consolation prizes of Rs.25/- each. The jokes will be published in the July 2002 issue.

Remember the rules and regulations :

* Write only on a Post Card.

* Mention 'Joke Contest'

* Give Full Details of name, class, school, age and residential address.

* Declare that the joke is **original**.

* Last Date : **25.05.2002**

* This is for school going children only and

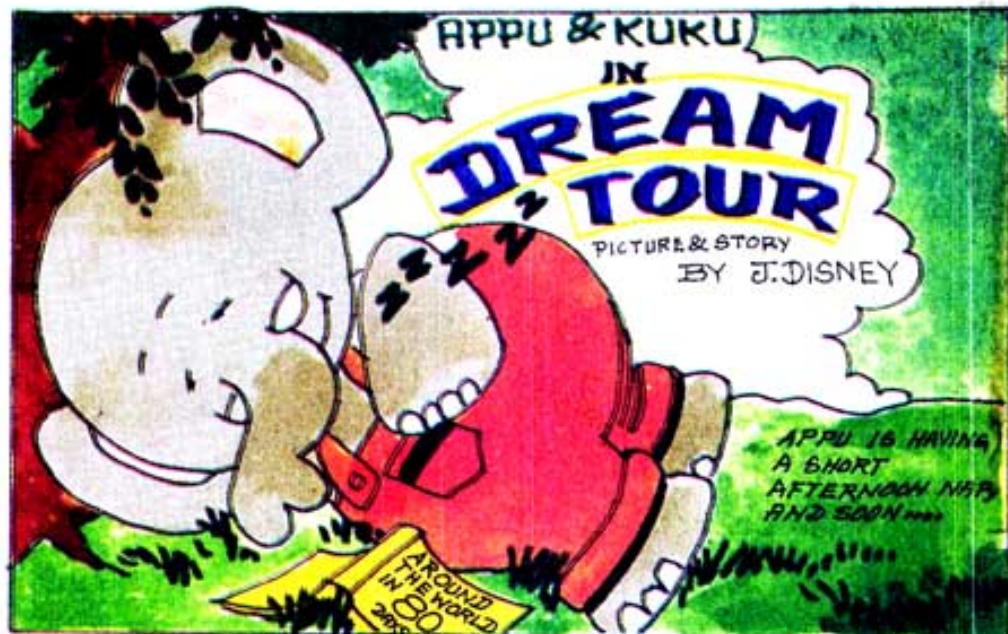
* The editor's decision is final.



APPU & KUKU

IN DREAM TOUR

PICTURE & STORY
BY J. DISNEY



APPU IS HAVING
A SHORT
AFTERNOON NAP
AND SOON...

APPU ENTERS
HIS OWN
DREAM
WORLD...

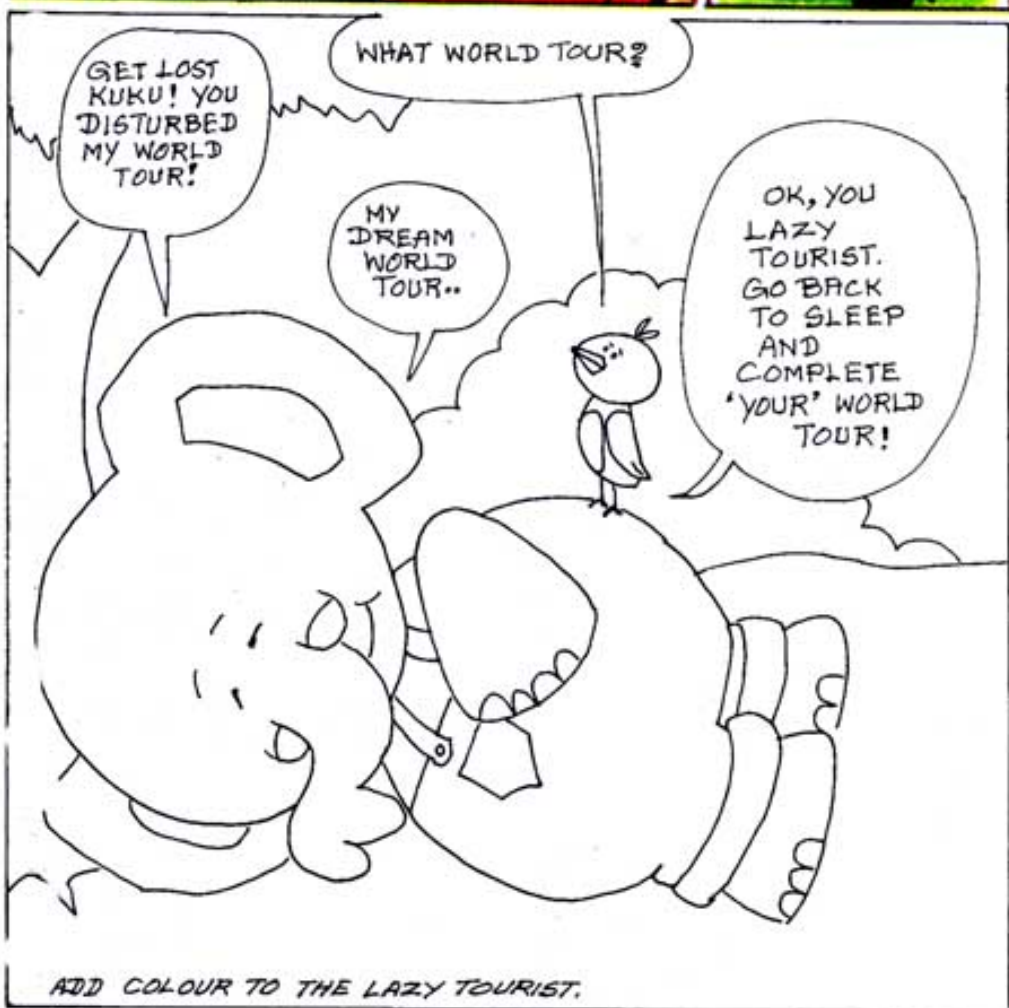


APPU,
THE OLDEST
PYRAMID
WAS BUILT
IN
6000 BC

KUKU,
THE TOWER
OF LONDON
WAS ONCE
A PRISON!

THE EIFFEL
TOWER IS NAMED
AFTER ITS
DESIGNER.

THE
LIBERTY STATUE
WAS A GIFT TO
USA FROM
FRANCE



?!

How did the kangaroo get its name? When European explorers first saw these strange hopping animals they asked an aborigine what they were called. He replied "kangaroo" meaning "I do not understand" your question!

- R.S.



LETTER BOX

☒ Gokulam provides double the pleasure we get from watching TV or playing computer games. 'Success in Exams' (March 2002) by Neelima Chakraborty was very helpful to me. Why not increase the number of pages of Gokulam?

- R. Nitin Balajee,
Std. IX, Chennai

regarding people saying no to meat and chicken. If the flesh of these animals is not cleaned properly, it may lead to serious health problems too.

- Archana
Natarajan, Std. IX,
Jamshedpur

☒ The article on

THE CRADLE OF OUR CULTURE

☒ Gokulam has made me a better and more pleasant person. My only request to you is to publish more jokes and to increase the number of pages.

- Kameshwari
Srinivasan,
Std. VI, Mumbai

Animation (April 2002) was extremely interesting and informative.

- S. Swetha, Std.
IX, Hyderabad

☒ Congratulations to the winners of the photo - caption contest (April 2002).

- Y.N. Suryadatt,
Age 13, Hubli

☒ As an avid reader of Gokulam I feel that it is the embodiment of knowledge and a cradle of our culture and civilization, as the name itself signifies.

- G. Arunbala,
Kalpakkam

☒ I love reading Gokulam. It is the waiting for 30 days to receive the next issue that irritates me. The book keeps me away from boredom.

- B. Ragothaman,
Std. VIII, Chennai

☒ I agree fully with Neelima's view (view point-March 2002)

☑ The April 2002 issue was very interesting. I read half the book in just three days!

- T. Pavan Kumar,
Age 12, Tirupur

☑ Thanks for the timely tips on success in exams. I hope somebody will give similar tips on the correct way of enjoying and learning during vacation.

- P. Sai Deepak,
Std. IV, Vizianagaram

Dear Sai,

That's exactly what we have tried to do in this special issue. Hope you enjoy it.

- Editor

☑ The feature on 'Lagaan' (April 2002)

was very interesting.

I would like to point out that Lagaan did not compete against any English films. It was only nominated under 'The Best Foreign Language Film' category which means that it has to be a 'non-English' one anyway!

Not to forget, the feature on animation - Visual Magic - was excellent.

- Ankit Gupta, Std. VIII, Mumbai

☑ I enjoyed reading the story 'Under the Neem' (April 2002). It was an enjoyable one.

- S. Mira, Age 9, Trichy

☑ Gokulam April



2002 issue was very interesting. 'In the wild' about wasps provided me with a lot of information, the story Trisanku benefited me very much and the Chinese tale fulfilled my expectations.

- M.P. Praveen
Kumar, Std. VII,
Coimbatore

ACTIONS ONLY - ANSWERS



INSIGHT - DRAWING AND PAINTING



Mrs. Lalitha Thiagarajan wanted to become a doctor! But she was always interested in drawing and loved to watch her sisters sketch and paint. It was through hard and sincere work that she has today become one of the finest artists of our country. Very much into Reiki and other healing techniques she has no regrets today that she is not a doctor!

Mrs. Lalitha Thiagarajan is the same Lalitha aunty who adds colour to the pages of your favourite magazine GOKULAM month after month. She has also illustrated the cover page of this special issue.
Lalitha aunty...

Dear young Gokulam readers,

It is holiday time. While many of you must be planning out-station tours, others have probably
(Continued in page 74)

THE DRY-BRUSH TECHNIQUE:

To demonstrate, I have made a painting in 3 stages.

1. After making a very rough sketch, using fine lines for an out line, take either a flat brush or a round tipped brush... but see that the bristles are not too soft. Make sure that the paint that adheres to the brush tip is NOT WATERY at all. To ensure this, after dipping the brush into the colour, you

FOR YOU TO TRY..

Some of you may have some knowledge of colours... Primary, Secondary and Complementary colours. From the arrangement of the SMILY FACES, you'll be able to see that, RED, BLUE and YELLOW are the primary colours, ORANGE, GREEN AND VIOLET are the secondary colours.

RED + YELLOW = ORANGE

YELLOW + BLUE = GREEN

RED + BLUE = VIOLET

Green is the complementary colour of red. Violet is the complementary



may have to wipe the brush tip to remove excess water. Now you start painting by dabbing the colour. Each dab will stand separate. You can take more than one colour at the same time to get strange combinations and effects. For eg. when you paint a section of a tree (see sketch), you can take green and yellow at the same time. Try and get the same effect.

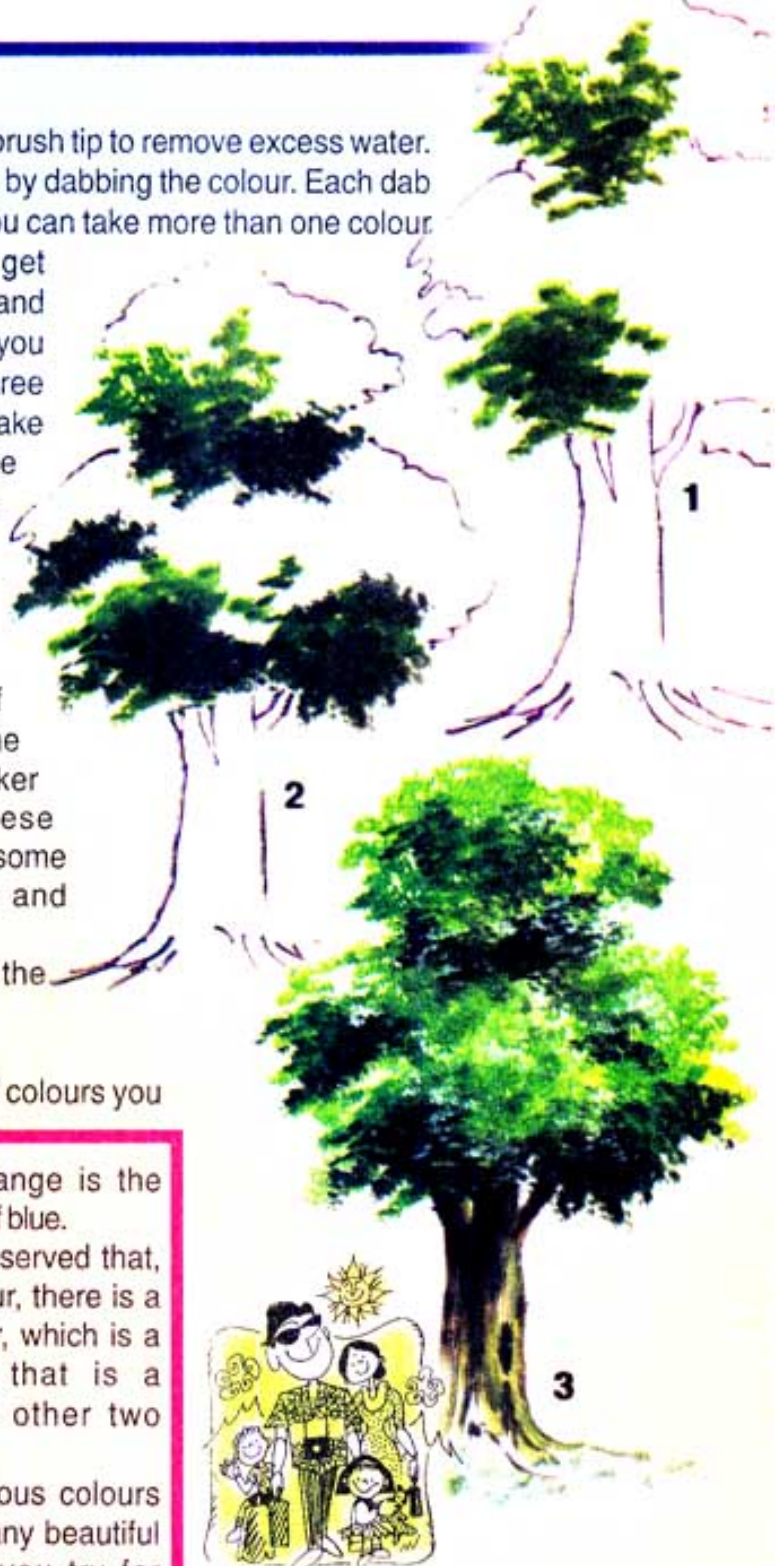
2. Now, clean and wipe the brush and take some deep blue, green and a bit of deep brown. Repeat the process. For the darker areas, you mix these colours. This will give some suggestions of light and shade.

3. After you paint the leafy area you come to the trunk. Once you finish one layer of colours you

colour of yellow. Orange is the complementary colour of blue.

You would have observed that, for each primary colour, there is a complementary colour, which is a secondary colour, that is a combination of the other two primary colours.

By mixing the various colours you can get many, many beautiful shades. Why don't you try for yourself and find out the different combinations! Well, I wish you many happy hours of fun.



may try and give some finishing touches, like adding white flowers... Go ahead and 'create.'

decided to stay put at home. The day is bound to be long and time has to be well spent - may be you would like to do some drawing and painting and later make it your hobby?

Instead of just giving you notes on drawing and painting, I thought of making these pages interactive, creative and interesting with a few exercises that you could try.

Drawing and painting is not a waste of time. On the contrary, it can be a valuable pastime and a noble one at that. Besides providing immense satisfaction and pleasure, this art consolidates your observation powers and develops patience. It has also been proved that this art like many others has a therapeutic value.

When does the child begin to evince an interest in drawing? It may seem unrealistic if I say that it is when the very young child first uses the writing instrument be it the pencil, crayon, chalk or colours. But at that stage, we would probably pass it off as "scribbling". Help this little child. Give him a large surface of paper over which his hands can move and jumbo crayons to colour. You'll find that his wrist moves in a circular or spiral motion initially.

Generally for all children a little guidance, becomes necessary once their 'interest' is spotted. I am careful not to use the word 'talent' as yet.

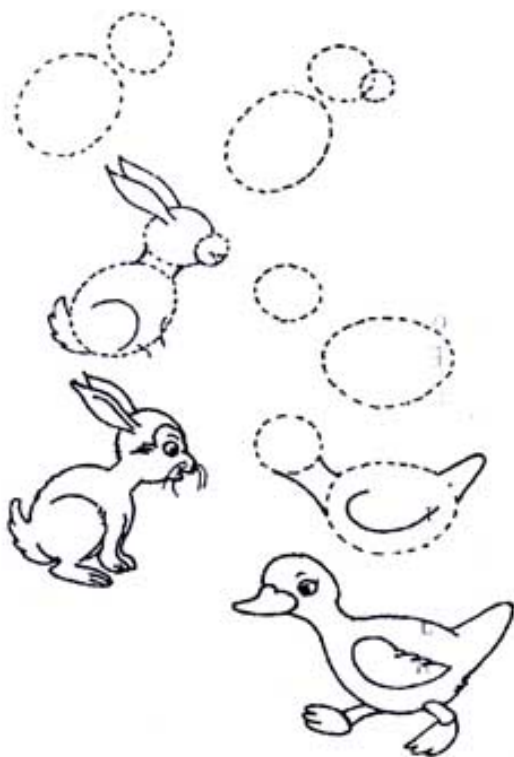
Quick sketches - try them out!

Interest together with hard work is sure to develop the talent.

Today, the markets are flooded with guides and books that give you the lessons. While I am not against these books, I consider it best to find a person to guide you and the one person who comes to my mind immediately is your drawing teacher in school. After all, you need this person to tell you whether you have the right kind of book!

Drawing comes first; painting follows. Draw the rough outline. Do not worry so much about the proportions in the beginning. That comes only with practice. It is important to express the creativity in you. The mechanics of it is sure to follow.

Try pencil shading giving the light and shade effect, cross hatching (re-



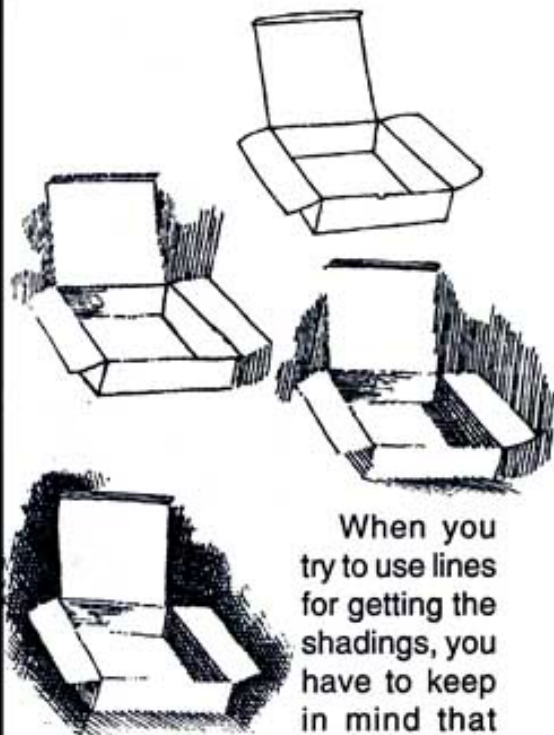
fer exercise), pen and ink technique or charcoal drawings. For this you need only the right kind of pencils - 3B, 4 B, 5 B or 6 B.

Having started with crayons or colour pencils, you can graduate to paints - poster colours and then water colours. Here again there are techniques to be followed. The size and kind of brushes will vary according to the method of painting. For those of you who are basically interested in getting just the overall effect, watery colours painted on semi-dry textured paper is ideal.

There is no 'perfect' picture. There will be or more precisely, there should be scope for improvisation. The best way to judge your own work is to hold it in front of the mirror and look at it!

Any hobby that is pursued should not become a mere pastime. It should be accompanied by a certain seriousness. Use things available at home. To begin with, the back of a calendar sheet, unused pages of an old note book etc will come in handy. Next a drawing note book and a box of colour pencils or crayons should do. Be sure you have developed a deep interest before you venture out into buying and accumulating the aids. Avoid wastage.

Finally, talk to your parents about your interest in the art. For, their role in providing the environment and the encouragement is vital. If it is a question of expense, it only requires a sac-



When you try to use lines for getting the shadings, you have to keep in mind that some know-

ledge of **LIGHT** and **SHADE** will be of great help. When you develop pictures, you may use short, straight lines - horizontal, vertical and oblique (slanting) lines, by using them in different combinations... or criss-crossing (this is referred to as **CROSS-HATCHING**).

rifice on your part of something else for the art material that is needed. Remember, the correct formula for a successful artist is '99% perspiration and 1% inspiration.'

Do write to me through Gokulam if you need to know anything more. Happy Holidays to all of you! With lots of love,

Calitha

NEXT INSIGHT: AYURVEDA

?!

The largest piece of sculpture in the world is Mount Rushmore in South Dakota, USA, where huge carved faces of four American Presidents George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln and Theodore Roosevelt are found. This national monument was built over a period of 14 years!

- R.S.

Krishna and Balarama were always together and in the company of young boys who were cowherds. Krishna adored Balarama who was very strong and loving. Balarama always protected the boys from any harm, particularly Krishna who always seemed to be in danger.

Balarama was fair and always wore a blue silk. On the other hand, Krishna was as dark as a cloud and

THE KILLING OF DHENUKASURA

Yasodha his mother, always dressed him with a yellow silk. When they were close together they looked like a dark cloud and lightning.

River Yamuna looked blue and serene. The forest on the banks of the river was in full bloom. The boys were out and so happy as they walked through the forest, jumping and shouting with joy. They plucked fruits from the shrubs and trees. They let the cows graze as they climbed the trees, swung on the branches and dived into the water.

Soon it was midday. After a good lunch they decided to rest under the shades of trees for a while. Sridhama and Subala decided to wander a bit while the others took a snooze.

It was not long before the two boys came running back shouting and screaming with excitement. "Krishna! Balarama!" they cried as they came panting. "We have spotted many many palm trees. They are laden with ripe fruits but the trees are so tall that we cannot reach the fruits. The fruits look so fresh and juicy. Its a pity we can't taste them ..."

All the other boys had surrounded them within a few seconds. "Where? Where did you find them? Is it too far from here?" asked a little boy who sounded very eager to taste the fruit.



"Can we go there now?" enquired another one.

"Oh! Do take us there Balarama. Our friends are so eager" said Krishna.

"Well, Subala you lead the way and we shall follow" replied Balarama taking complete charge.

"But there is a problem, Balarama" said Sridhama, "there is a wicked mule on the way that came charging at us when we tried to pick up a fruit that was lying

on the ground. The mule is so big and fierce."

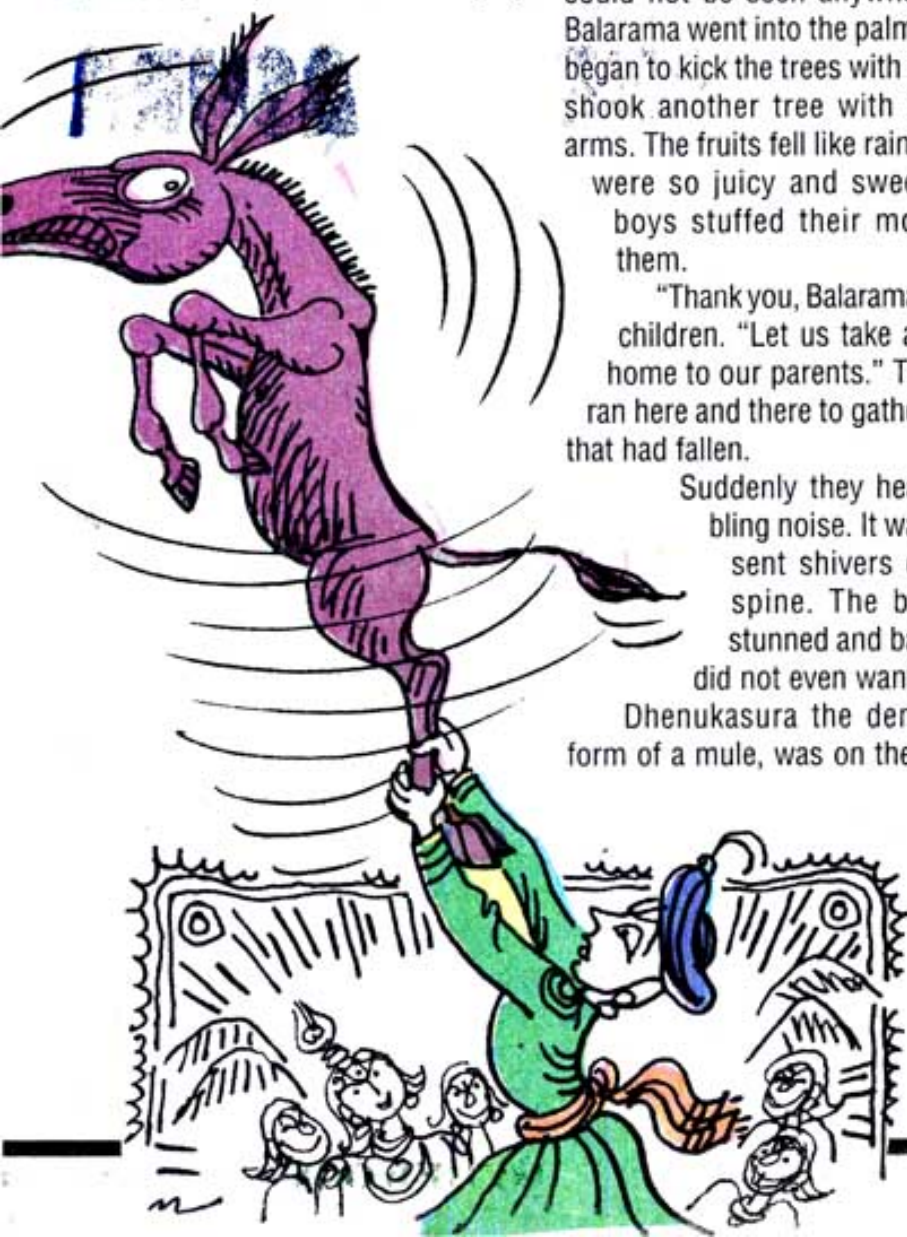
"Don't be an idiot, Sridhama" intervened Subala, "why should one worry when Krishna and Balarama are with us? Come on, let's go!"

Even as they neared the grove, the smell of ripe fruits struck them with wonder and their mouth watered! The boys ran to reach the fruits. The mule could not be seen anywhere and so Balarama went into the palm grove and began to kick the trees with his feet. He shook another tree with his strong arms. The fruits fell like rain. The dates were so juicy and sweet that the boys stuffed their mouths with them.

"Thank you, Balarama," cried the children. "Let us take a few fruits home to our parents." The children ran here and there to gather the fruits that had fallen.

Suddenly they heard a rumbling noise. It was loud and sent shivers down their spine. The boys stood stunned and baffled. They did not even want to run.

Dhenukasura the demon in the form of a mule, was on the other side



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of the grove. He heard the shouting and laughter of the children. He was angry. It had never happened before. Nobody had dared to enter his palm grove! Dhenukasura breathed fire. His eyes turned red with anger as he came charging towards the boys.

Balarama had ofcourse expected this. He went forward to stop the mule from kicking his friends and his beloved Krishna. Dhenukasura turned and lifted his hind legs to hit Balarama who nimbly jumped aside. The asura's leg hit the air and he stumbled. Dhenukasura next charged at Krishna. Balarama turned around quickly. With a heave he caught hold of the mule's legs and lifted it high above his head. Balarama then swirled the wicked demon and finally with a great heave threw him far. The demon was killed.

"Victory to Balarama! Victory to Krishna!" rejoiced the young friends.

"Thank you Balarama! Thank you for saving me from the angry mule" said Krishna as he gave his brother a big hug.

"Krishna, I know that you are also perfectly capable of defending yourself. But I did not want you to take the risk first" said Balarama as he embraced Krishna.

The children went back home and narrated what had happened. Everyone rejoiced and sang and danced. It was such a happy evening at Brindaavan. Nanda and Yasodha were proud of Krishna and Balarama. It was yet another adventure they had had together!

- ANANDHI

“Emperor Nero was playing on his fiddle when Rome was burning” an old saying informs us. In Gujarat, the authorities don't seem to be doing even that! There has been a lot of criticism about the way in which the communal riots, killings and plunder have been handled by the state government, headed by the B.J.P. leader Narendra Modi. Even the allies of the B.J.P. at the center want the Gujarat chief minister to go. The prime minister has not yielded so far. But it looks as though he will have to - sooner or later.

The ever present enmity between the Israelis and Palestinians has aggravated and transformed more or less into a state of war. Palestinian suicide bombers walk into Israeli departmental stores or other crowded areas and set off the bombs killing themselves and several others besides wounding scores of innocent people. The Israeli government has retaliated by sending tanks into Palestinian territories to flushout terrorists. They are also keeping under seige Yasser Arafat, the Palestinian leader whom they believe is actively helping the terrorists. U.S.A. is sending it's emissaries to diffuse tensions. But whether normalcy will be restored is a



* no room for much hope

million dollar question.

In Srilanka, the Norwegian peace efforts have borne fruit and both the Srilankan government as well as L.T.T.E. have agreed for talks. Prabhakaran, leader of L.T.T.E. has addressed a press conference after several years. The tone and substance of his statements during this recent

RIOTS, WARS AND WORDS!

press conference, do not give room for much hope that the scheduled talks will yield any positive results.

In Tamilnadu, finance minister Ponnaiyan has accused the central government commerce minister Maran of manipulating cement prices to help industrialists who have framed a cement cartel. Ponnaiyan belongs to the ruling A.I.A.D.M.K. party in Tamilnadu whereas Maran belongs to the D.M.K.

which is in alliance with the B.J.P. at the center. Maran, has reacted strongly to Ponnaiyan's accusation and has said that Ponnaiyan was lying and would be facing defamation charges, had he spoken these words outside the legislature. The people of Tamilnadu are looking for ringside seats!



superior feeling! He would either explain, or say, "Well you will have to wait for the mystery to be unraveled at the end of the story!"

The plot may be the same for every body who hears or reads a story, but the drama, the action and the facial

THE ART OF STORY TELLING

Dear Reader...

I remember as a young boy waiting eagerly for the story hour just before bed time. My sister and I used to sit on either side of our father on the swing. He narrated the story of Ramayana and later Mahabharatha with all the subplots as serials. It took him more than a year to complete the stories. Along with the gentle sway of the swing we were transported to a by gone era. Invariably the narration stopped at an interesting situation in the story. "Tell us more" we would beg. "No, no! It's past bed time. The story can wait till tomorrow" would be the stock reply, which in turn increased the suspense!

Nobody seems to have the time for story telling these days. The television and the computer have taken a toll of many ancient and healthy forms of entertainment. One such is the art of story telling, which has definite advantages over television.

When you hear a story you can always interrupt to get a point clarified. The story teller is eager to oblige for it gives him a

expressions are left to your imagination and the more involved you are, the more the excitement. The characters are exclusively your own and very different from what others have in their minds. But on the TV screen it is all uniform and you have to just accept what you see, with absolutely no scope for your imagination. The creativity of the individual mind is lost.

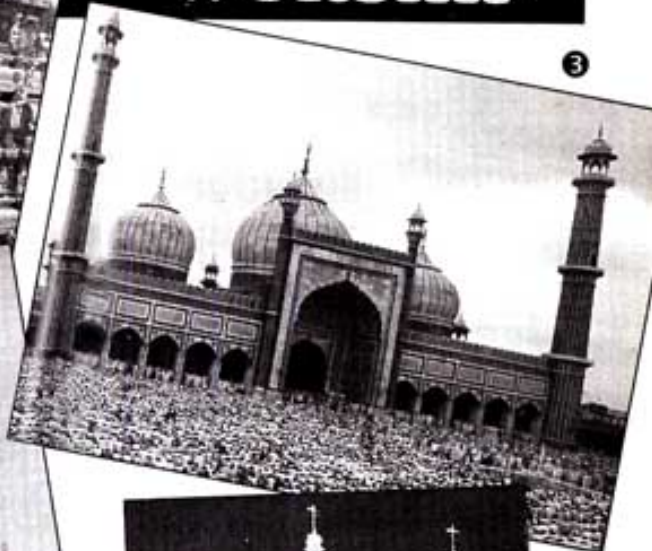
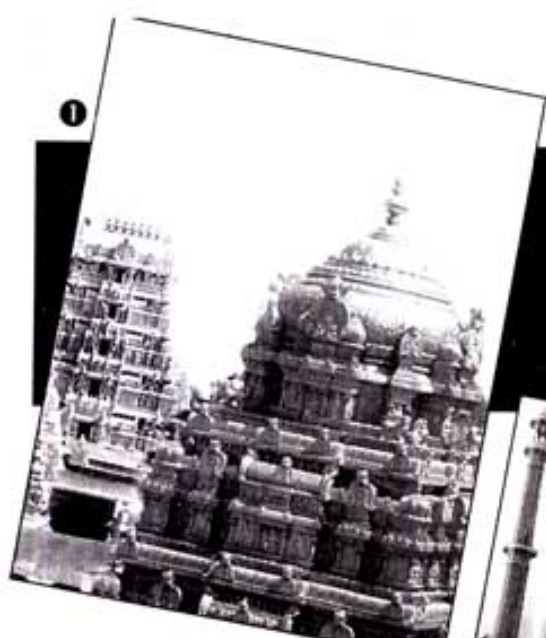
Story telling or hearing also improves your spoken language. You get to know how to translate thoughts and ideas into words. You become more self confident and feel that you can hold fort in any conversation. It helps you with your lessons too for you will be able to write what you learnt without having to by heart the answers.

So, during these hols, why don't you practise story telling? I'm sure your friends will be drawn towards you. If not, your grand parents are sure to give you a happy hearing! You can even work on your own original story and later write it down. Who knows, it may even get published in Gokulam!

- Editor

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IDENTIFY THESE PLACES OF WORSHIP



Answers : 1. Lord Venkateswara Temple, Tirupathi 2. Jagannath Temple, Puri 3. Jamma Masjid, Delhi 4. Shrine Velankanni Church, Amritsar 5. Golden Temple, Amritsar

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